

MAGNUSON PARK PROJECT
PUBLIC HEARING
TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY

February 4, 2002

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Magnuson Park Community Center
Seattle, Washington

COPY

Testimony taken by
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7416 52nd NE, Seattle

T3 Jim Simpkins

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2823 Broadway E., Seattle, 98102

T4 Bob Santos

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9806 61st Avenue S., Seattle

T5 Renee Barton

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11024 30th Avenue NE, Seattle

T6 Molly Hashimoto

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TESTIMONY OF ALEX STEVENS

My name is Alex Stevens. Stevens with a V, the right way. I live on 77th Street. 5711 North 77th Street, right up here on the hill. I am here to make a statement in opposition to lighting the sportsfields.

1
S/O4

I well realize the reason for having lighted sportsfields. That's perfectly obvious. I do think that the DEIS has failed to take into account the harmful effects of lighting these fields. Harmful, that is, on the inhabitants of the region, both animal and human.

2
L&G2

First of all, let me address wildlife issues very briefly. I am not a naturalist or biologist, but I have a close relation who took his Ph.D. in biology at the UW, used to live in Seattle, and now is a professor at Bowden College in Maine, and past chair of the department. I sent him all the information that I had about the lighting project, and I am going to quote some of his responses.

This is Nat Wheelwright, is his name. He is rather well known now in the world of biology. He said that the effects of extending day length on just about every type of organism, plant or animal, is now quite well known. Seasonal, biological rhythms are set by photo. That's P-H-O-T-O. Flowering in plants, feeding patterns and pupation in insects, reproductive physiology in birds,

3
WDLF1

1 all are well known to be affected negatively by extending
2 day length.

3 There is another naturalist whom we have consulted,
4 the chairman of the local Department of Zoology, and
5 another speaker will quote his remarks. But it is quite
6 apparent that experienced biologists are opposed to
7 extreme artificial extension of daylight because of its
8 affect on animals and organisms that we consider beneath
9 ourselves, rightly or wrongly.

3
WDLF1
(cont'd)

10 Now I would like to consider the human animal for a
11 moment, too. I was one of those who attended the
12 very-well-put-on demonstration of lighting here about two
13 months ago, in which there was a session in one of the
14 rooms down here, we looked at some lamps, and they set up
15 three tall poles with lights on them, and then some of us
16 went up into Viewridge.

17 A friend of mine and I went to up to 56th Avenue,
18 which is not quite halfway up into Viewridge, and we
19 turned in the street and looked down at Magnuson Park.
20 The three lights which were lit were clearly visible and
21 -- oh, as a matter of fact, someone has brought a large
22 copy of the photograph, not taken by me but someone else
23 -- from 56th Avenue. And the three lights are quite
24 visible, and indeed there was plenty of glare from just
25 those three.

4
L&G2

1 I ask you now to consider what the effect will be
2 of -- I think it says 80 poles with a total of 640 lamps
3 on them, giving out 640,000 watts of electric light power
4 into the sky. It's a many, many -- much of a
5 magnification over that.

6 This is terrific glare. The EIS states that there
7 is almost no glare visible above the Burke-Gilman Trail.
8 They ignore all the people in the apartments and condos
9 below the trail. But we were well above the trail,
10 several streets above it, and there was plenty of glare
11 from just the three of them.

12 I feel this is going to -- of course it would be
13 nice for the sports people, and maybe at one time I would
14 have been one of those, but I think this is a terrific
15 negative effect on all the people living on Viewridge,
16 which is like a giant Roman amphitheater, with about a
17 thousand or more houses all looking down on Magnuson
18 Park.

19 It is a unique situation where the light will be
20 most offensive, in my opinion. I think there will be
21 other comments also about the effect of the glare. But
22 the EIS was very, very wrong about there being no glare.
23 That's all I have to say.

4
L&G2
(cont'd)

TESTIMONY OF BOB LUCAS

I am Bob Lucas. I am president of the Viewridge Community Council, and I would like to take this opportunity to register the opposition to the sportsfield lighting that the Viewridge Community Council has voted on, and talk about just the impact that it's going to have in lighting, traffic, and noise.

1
S/O4

The Viewridge area, as most of you know, covers the western side from Sand Point up to the top of the hill, back down to 40th, between 77th and 65th. So it's quite a large area, 1700 homes, with probably a third of them on the hillside and in the condominiums.

Our concern lies in the fact that the 15 sportsfields will be lit, and they will also have a large affect on traffic and on noise pollution. We have that right now. Why do we have to face additional traffic and noise pollution?

2
NOI1
TRAN1

According to the DEIS, the sportsfields are designated to be lighted by high-powered floodlights. 488 of them are going to be what's called the full cutoff, and 152 are going to be the shielded conventional. The full cutoff will cover the soccer fields and the rugby fields, but they will still cast reflective light both in the sky and reflective light from the ground.

3
L&G2

1 The two regulation baseball fields are situated in
2 such a manner that the shielded conventional lights face
3 directly west, right into the homes of the residents and
4 the condominiums on Sand Point and up the hill to 50th.

5 Cumulative impacts as stated by the DEIS indicate
6 that either of the action alternatives would contribute
7 to a general, long-term increase in night lighting levels
8 and associated glare and sky glow from various light
9 sources in an existing urbanized environment. Is this
10 not an admission that the sportsfield lighting will
11 impact our neighborhood negatively?

12 Further, it states that some of the specific light
13 and glare impacts would represent significant, adverse,
14 unavoidable impacts. I think they're avoidable.

15 Why must the residents of the neighborhood be
16 required to submit to the invasion of privacy and
17 tranquility of their homes and loss of property values?
18 People bought those houses and people sell those houses
19 based on the view. While it's not a direct tax, it is a
20 tax based on the value of those properties. The value
21 goes up with the view that you have from your property.
22 There is no doubting that.

23 The additional 15 fields will increase traffic flow
24 along the main arterials -- Sand Point Way, Northeast
25 75th, Northeast 70th, Northeast 56th -- which run

3
L&G2
(cont'd)

4
SEPA6

5
TRAN1

1 directly through Viewridge. The current streets, other
2 than Sand Point, are considered residential. They can't
3 support this increased traffic and remain safe for the
4 residents to travel. Even if the sporting association
5 directs sportsfield users not to use the residential
6 streets, we know that will be ignored.

7 It's a natural flow to go west to east when you
8 want to come to Sand Point. If you're coming from
9 Ballard, if you're coming from Fremont, from that area,
10 you're going to cut across. You're not going to go up
11 Sand Point and have to cut through downtown University.
12 You're going to come across 75th, 70th, and 65th. That
13 will increase traffic tremendously.

14 Again, when the DEIS speaks to transportation, it
15 says that transportation is basically going to be heavy
16 during the construction phase. It doesn't say anything
17 about what's going to happen after.

18 There is a one-sentence reference -- "No
19 significant unavoidable adverse impact to transportation
20 facilities or traffic conditions have been identified for
21 the operating period of the proposed action." This
22 indicates that there was no study done. This is a gross
23 error and is one that we hope will be corrected with the
24 study.

25 Noise levels will also increase proportionately

5
TRAN1
(cont'd)

6
NOI1

1 with the action of the sportsfield. There is no
2 provision in the DEIS to buffer the noise that the fans
3 and the players will create through the use of these
4 additional sportsfields. Again, the DEIS indicates,
5 "Intermittent noise from increased park use resulting
6 from the proposed action is not likely to add existing
7 background noise source in the local area."

6
NOI1
(cont'd)

8 Let me summarize by saying -- on the last page
9 here, and I have given the court reporter a full text --
10 we, the Viewridge Community Council, therefore ask that
11 serious consideration be given to not installing any
12 sportsfield lighting, constructing fewer fields to reduce
13 traffic, and buffers to reduce the noise level at Sand
14 Point Magnuson Park. Thanks.

15
16 TESTIMONY OF JIM SIMPKINS

T3

17 I am Jim Simpkins. I am the co-chair of North End
18 District Council, which is a group that represents 18
19 different neighborhood and business organizations
20 throughout the city, throughout the north end of the
21 city. I am going to submit written comments from that
22 organization, but just present some of the highlights
23 here this evening.

Duplicate
testimony.
Please
refer to
Comment
Record O8,
comments
1-5.

24 I actually live south of the ship canal, so I am
25 not directly affected by this proposal one way or

1 another, but several highly respected and very
2 fair-minded members of our organization have convinced me
3 that they have very serious concerns, both about the
4 impact on wildlife and particularly the sorts of things
5 that our group deals, the impacts on the neighborhood.

6 Let me just read from our letter. The first is
7 there is some concern about the affects on wildlife, and
8 then our letter continues. Furthermore and of equal of
9 importance, the lighting will cause significant glare and
10 reflective sky glow for the neighboring communities.
11 The recent lighting demonstration illustrated how even a
12 small number of lights adversely impacts the neighbors of
13 the park.

14 Moreover, the adjacent neighborhoods through which
15 the arterial streets pass will be adversely impacted by
16 traffic and noise from the greatly increased number of
17 sports-related visitors to the park during the evening
18 and night hours.

19 Great effort has been made to make Sand Point
20 Magnuson Park serve a variety of uses while emphasizing
21 the park's natural areas and wetlands. The sportsfield
22 capacity will already be greatly increased by the
23 addition of 11 fields there. The natural areas should
24 not now be further compromised by the addition of sports
25 lighting.

1 There are presently 47 illuminated sportsfields at
2 19 sites in the city. If this proposal is developed,
3 this park will have 19 percent of the illuminated fields
4 in the city, plus the additional lighting required for
5 parking. This is an environmental burden which is beyond
6 the capacity of the natural areas and the surrounding
7 neighborhoods to assimilate.

8 Again, I'll submit these in writing, but thank you
9 for your time.

10
11 TESTIMONY OF BOB SANTOS

T4

12 My name is Bob Santos and I live at 9806 61st
13 Avenue South in south Seattle. I am also the former
14 Regional Administrator from the Department of Housing and
15 Urban Development.

16 What I want to talk a little bit about are the
17 residential units that will be directly impacted by the
18 lighting. We're talking about former building 224, 6,
19 26N, and 26S. 224 is Santos Place, right directly across
20 the street -- well, up the hill right from the ball
21 fields.

1
L&G2

22 We spent -- the Federal government and the city and
23 the community -- spent an enormous amount of funds to
24 help eliminate the process of homelessness. What we did
25 was worked very closely with the city and the community

1 surrounding Magnuson Park to develop housing for homeless
2 people, to get the homeless people out of the central
3 city, the downtown area, from the lights, from the noise,
4 into a place where they could join most of us with job
5 opportunities and a better life.

6 One of the things that I see from the environmental
7 impact statement -- "Primary exposure of non-park users
8 to direct glare from the sportsfield lights would be in
9 residential areas of Sand Point Campus, directly west of
10 Sportsfield Drive," primarily those buildings that I
11 mentioned.

12 Also, in the DEIS, some of the specific light and
13 glare impacts under the proposed action or the lesser
14 capacity alternative would represent significant,
15 adverse, unavoidable impacts. "Direct exposure to glare
16 from the sportsfield lights at some residences
17 immediately adjacent to the project site appears to be of
18 significant impact that would be unavoidable, even with
19 the mitigation features incorporated into the project
20 design."

21 What I am concerned about is the parks department,
22 realizing that the homeless housing will be impacted,
23 seems to think that since your residential area will be
24 less impacted, it's okay but at the expense of those
25 homeless people. And I am very concerned about that kind

1
L&G2
(cont'd)

1 of impact driving the homeless people back to the
2 streets.

1
L&G2
(cont'd)

3 I just want to close with one of the things I was
4 concerned about to the construction. "The construction
5 and demolition activities would create short-term
6 intermittent noise on the project site over the
7 construction period, expected to last ten years or more."
8 Holy cow. The three stadiums -- the King Dome, Mariner
9 Field, and Safeco Field -- have collectively taken less
10 than ten years to construction. That's a lot of impact
11 for this neighborhood. Thank you.

2
NOI3

12
13 TESTIMONY OF RENEE BARTON

T5

14 My name is Renee Barton. My group is Seattle
15 Residents for Fair Field Lighting. My address is 11024
16 30th Avenue Northeast.

17 I would like to talk about the DEIS impact of light
18 and glare, Section 3.9. The Department of Parks lighting
19 standards are -- they're not stringent enough. There are
20 national publications about what is good lighting, and
21 when you have wildlife, after curfew the lighting should
22 be zero foot candles. Which means that when you have
23 natural nighttime, there should be no light.

1
WDLF1

24 Given that there are so many wetland plants for
25 this area, so much habitat that will be impacted, the

1 Department of Parks needs to incorporate into this DEIS
2 the national standards for lighting that are already in
3 existence.

1
WDLF
(cont'd)

4 This amount of light, especially with the number of
5 baseball fields which are extremely outward-oriented
6 towards the neighborhood and which spill much more into
7 wildlife areas -- it's a large concentration of very
8 glaring lights. They also have a lot of spill. This not
9 only affects the wildlife, but it is, just as Bob Santos
10 said, going to make second-class citizens of the folks in
11 these buildings here.

2
L&G2

12 The night of the light show I went to the stairs of
13 those buildings, and it's phenomenally bad. If lights
14 were actually to be here, there are even better standards
15 that can be met than the ones the Parks Department has
16 adopted, and I'll submit those in writing. They're also
17 on our website.

18 The other problem with these kinds of fields when
19 they come into a neighborhood, as we have learned in
20 Meadowbrook where I am from, is that local access is no
21 longer a possibility. To play on those fields, one has
22 to become a member of a league in which one pays dues.
23 If these fields were to come down here, there need to be
24 provisions for the folks who live here to get on some of
25 those teams or have access to those fields. It's a

3
REC2

1 question of equity.

2 One of the things that this DEIS says is that the
3 new technology is going to solve the problems of light
4 and glare. Well, we know it doesn't solve it for the
5 residents on the west side, it doesn't solve it for the
6 wildlife habitat, and the worst lights you could use for
7 wildlife habitat -- which would be subject to light
8 trespass -- are the full cutoff lights. The other
9 lights, the full conventional lights, actually can stop
10 light trespass better if they go higher, which I know is
11 offensive to neighbors. They can even stop glare just as
12 well as the other lights.

4
PD9

13 It is disappointing that the DEIS is limited to the
14 153 acres in terms of its cumulative impacts. I'm also
15 an environmentalist, and we are very concerned that the
16 parks follow best-management practices for erosion and
17 sediment control during construction.

5
SEPA5

18 The idea of using asphalt and concrete -- that is
19 already here and is already polluted -- under these
20 fields to drain the fields is outrageous. This is not
21 going to enhance water quality. You need to use river
22 rock or crushed rock under these fields, whether they're
23 lit or not. You need to have hundred-year detention.
24 Just because Lake Washington is a receiving body of water
25 does not mean you can just dump storm water into it.

6
PD7

7
WTR6

1 We had the same kind of fields built in our
2 neighborhood. We were told that the water detention
3 would be better, that it would enhance our creek, which
4 is full of threatened Chinook -- and I understand you
5 have threatened Chinook in the lake out here. We were
6 told it would enhance water quality. It was only when we
7 got the hearing examiner that we were told that actually
8 it was not going to do everything they said.

9 The detention under the fields needs to be as good
10 as you say it's going to be. Don't treat the wetlands as
11 a detention pond. You need to have a detention pond
12 before the water gets to the wetlands so you clean the
13 water first from the pavement, from whatever is going
14 through the fields, and have a detention pond before that
15 water hits the wetlands.

16 Also there needs to be more treatment in the
17 parking lots. You can't just let that storm water run
18 off through the wetlands and into the lake.

19
20 TESTIMONY OF MOLLY HASHIMOTO

21 Hi. I live on 7303 58th Avenue Northeast. I am a
22 park neighbor, and I have two points to make.

23 My first point is that from my house in late winter
24 after dark I can hear the Pacific Tree Frogs that inhabit
25 the wetlands at the park. Many of the wetlands are

7
WTR6
(cont'd)

T6

Duplicate
testimony.
Please refer
to Comment
Record
I-122,
Comments
3-5.

1 immediately adjacent to the proposed fields. In the
2 plan, Grove Pond and South Meadow Pond are next to the
3 baseball or soccer fields. The DEIS says that the
4 numbers of amphibians are expected to increase under the
5 new plan with the development of the wetlands, but the
6 map does show spill from the lights into the ponds.

7 In addition to those sportsfield lights there will
8 also be parking area lights and automobile lights from
9 increased traffic. The frogs are a species that is
10 mainly nocturnal. I would like to see the scientific
11 data supporting the DEIS statement that the amphibians
12 will increase.

13 I also want to know what is going to happen to them
14 during the proposed ten years of construction. I can't
15 believe that there will not be significant impacts in
16 areas close to the construction sites.

17 My second point is that, in addition to being a
18 park neighbor, I am a park user. I walk there several
19 times a week and I also teach three painting classes for
20 North Seattle Community College at their Sand Point
21 campus. I bring my classes to the park about ten times
22 during the year and we do open-air painting there. The
23 landscapes, native plants, and birds all make this a
24 wonderful resource for my students, and they are part of
25 the greater Seattle community.

1 We the voters, the picnickers, kite-flyers, dog
2 owners, soccer and tennis players, we're all currently
3 enjoying the park. The housing there is being put to
4 good use by the families who are living there. Why are
5 we spending all this taxpayer money when the park is
6 wonderful as it is?

7 I am in favor of the no-action alternative. The
8 proposed action doesn't take into account the affect of
9 the huge scale of the sportsfields on other uses of the
10 park. I think this plan suffers from grandiosity, the
11 drafters envisioning a mixed-use scenario that looks
12 really inventive and creative on paper but in reality
13 would be a disaster.

14 A more comprehensive EIS which takes into account
15 all the proposed uses and their impact on one another,
16 including the construction period, is called for.

17
18 TESTIMONY OF GAIL DAHL

T7

19 I am Gail Dahl. My address is 6903 57th Avenue
20 Northeast. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am
21 a long-time resident of Viewridge, a believer in
22 neighborhoods, and the mother of a small child. I have
23 taken time to read the DEIS and found it completely
24 failed to address the neighborhood environment in which I
25 live.

Duplicate
testimony.
Please refer
to Comment
Record I68,
Comments
1-8.

1 Contrary to the DEIS there will be significant
2 environmental impacts if the full sportsfield enhancement
3 and lighting plan is implemented. The proposed action
4 will eliminate forever any resemblance to a naturalistic
5 environment with Magnuson Park. We, our children, and
6 future generations will lose the opportunity for learning
7 about and demonstrating responsible wildlife stewardship,
8 a precious and rare opportunity in this urban setting.

9 The noise associated with the activities scheduled
10 until 11 p.m. every night of the year will significantly
11 impact our living environment. Presently we can hear
12 noise from the games played in the park, and that's
13 daytime noise. We can accept that. But the lit fields
14 will have noise, human and automobile traffic, until 11
15 p.m.

16 I want my young son to be able to sleep at night, I
17 want to be able to sleep at night, and at least to have
18 the option to be able to open a window in the summertime.

19 The traffic will increase on our neighborhood
20 streets, our intersections, and especially crosswalks
21 such as the Burke-Gilman Trail will be come dangerous
22 throughways as drivers, unfamiliar with the area, rush in
23 and out of the park, oblivious as they pass through our
24 residential community.

25 The DEIS also fails to take into account the

1 additional traffic that will be generated by major
2 projects currently under construction adjacent to the
3 park. 399 new student-housing units being constructed on
4 Radford Court and the new Children's Hospital building at
5 70th and Sand Point Way will increase traffic at all
6 critical intersections near the park. The Children's
7 site alone will increase traffic by an estimated 500
8 trips daily on Sand Point Way.

9 It's wrong to place industrial-level lighting on
10 towering light poles within a residential community.
11 Because of our topography, our homes are effectively the
12 bleachers for these fields. My neighborhood looks into
13 the lights. The DEIS significantly understated the
14 effect of the lights, as anyone who attended the lighting
15 demonstration and ventured onto the hillside can attest.

16 The cumulative impact of pending and proposed
17 projects within the park also have not been evaluated by
18 the DEIS, even though requests to address this specific
19 issue were made at previous public meetings. No attempts
20 were made to evaluate alternative athletic field sites.

21 Magnuson Park is an inappropriate choice for the
22 proposed action. The impact of the project would be
23 devastating to the neighbors to the park, surrounding
24 communities, and all those seeking a small piece of
25 tranquility within the city. Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF HERBERT CURL, JR.

I am Herbert Curl, Jr. I am a park user and I live at 4741 18th Avenue Northeast. I have been using the park since 1974. I should say that I am actually a believer in vacant lots as opposed to manicured, developed parks. But it looks as if the development here is inevitable, so my comments are addressed with that assumption. I am going read this in the interests of clarity and brevity, I hope.

I want to commend the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation for its overall design of the wetlands habitat in the DEIS. It's unfortunate that the wetlands are an afterthought to the athletic fields and only included to treat runoff from the athletic fields. The choice of artificial turf over grass is also commendable inasmuch as fertilizers, herbicides, and mowing will be precluded.

1
S/O2

Phases two, three, and four show the proposed beginning dates, but no ending dates. It is implicit that each phase will end before the beginning of the next one. Phase four indicates completion of wetland habitat excavation, but does not indicate completion in terms of revegetation and a functioning wetland.

2
PD1

The various phase descriptions are not accompanied by time lines or funding lines. Currently \$12 million

1 has been allocated for this project. If no more funding
2 were forthcoming in years 2002, 3, or 4, what would be
3 the actual phasing of athletic field construction,
4 wetland construction, and parking lot construction?

5 The DEIS offers two alternatives, one of which
6 assumes fewer athletic fields. Instead, the alternatives
7 should address the use of the \$12 million in the first
8 alternative and then subsequent construction phases as
9 more funding becomes available. There is no contingency
10 plan incorporated in the DEIS.

11 The EIS should incorporate the approved vegetation
12 management plan, particularly as it incorporated the use
13 of large trees, particularly in the wetland habitat area.
14 Large trees are needed for shade, perching, and
15 nest-building by birds in this area, and I might point
16 out that large trees also can shade lighting of athletic
17 fields.

18 The DEIS does not address the specific kinds of
19 native plant vegetation to be employed in the wetland
20 habitat area. Cross-referencing between the vegetation
21 management plan and the DEIS itself is too difficult.
22 The off-leash area is not included in the DEIS. However,
23 potential surface drainage from the off-leash area should
24 be addressed in the final EIS.

25 Finally, I think that every EIS and its subsequent

2
PD1
(cont'd)

3
PD4

4
SEPA5

5
WET1

1 activities should be followed by long-term monitoring to
2 determine if the predicted or speculated environmental
3 impacts are actually correct, otherwise we learn nothing
4 and further mitigation becomes very difficult or
5 impossible. Thank you.

5
WET1
(cont'd)

7 TESTIMONY OF DAVID HASHIMOTO

T9

8 My name is David Hashimoto. My address is 7303
9 58th Avenue Northeast, and that means that I live
10 directly above where the baseball fields will be.

11 The DEIS states that "residences along or east of
12 58th Avenue Northeast and north of approximately
13 Northeast 70th Street appear to be at a low enough
14 elevation that they might experience glare from multiple
15 fields." Now, we had the lighting demonstration in
16 November, and I think that eliminated any doubt. There
17 is significant glare directly into my house and other
18 houses on 58th.

19 The DEIS says the glare is highly subjective and
20 its measurement has eluded lighting experts for over 100
21 years. This seems to be an excuse for not measuring the
22 lights. However, I understand that measurements do exist
23 for the brightness of lighting, the reflective quality of
24 surfaces such as artificial turf, and the atmospheric
25 scattering of light.

Duplicate
testimony.
Please refer
to Comment
Record
I121,
Comments
1-7.

1 I think the final EIS should be based on the best
2 scientific methods available and that there should be
3 measurement of the output from these lights, the
4 reflective qualities we're going to experience, and the
5 sky glow. Measurements should be taken and the total
6 effect of 152 conventional floodlights, 488 full cutoff
7 lights, lights for 867 parking spaces, and lights for
8 roads and pathways should be calculated.

9 After seeing the lighting demonstration I wrote to
10 the Parks Department and offered to have them come to my
11 house during a future lighting demonstration to observe
12 the glare. I got a response saying, "We will make a note
13 of this and contact you should we decide to accept your
14 gracious offer." I think that it was not just a gracious
15 offer but a specific recommendation that someone actually
16 look at what these lights will be like.

17 The Parks Department's own lighting expert says
18 this will be the largest lighted sports complex in the
19 entire northwest. I think a project of this scope should
20 be examined carefully before we start work. I would
21 recommend that the Parks Department set up lights to
22 approximate the lighting for proposed fields 7, 8, and 9,
23 and I recommend that people drafting the final EIS go to
24 Santos Place and other residences on up the hill and look
25 at what the lights actually are going to be. If they

1 can't take measurements of the lights, then they should
2 talk to the residents and find out how they feel about
3 the impact.

4 The draft EIS does not consider alternative sites
5 for sportsfield development. The state environmental
6 policy act says that public projects must consider
7 off-site alternatives for plan projects. Parks
8 Department staff have said that there are actually
9 lighted fields in other locations of the city where
10 lights are going to be removed because they're outdated.
11 I think the city should consider using those locations
12 for some of these lighted fields and they should look at
13 other park facilities.

14 King County is closing down parks because they
15 don't have money to maintain them. I think we could look
16 at a regional approach and try to use some of the
17 available land out there for these fields and try to do
18 it with the least negative environmental impact possible.

19 The city should also look at laws that presently
20 restrict lighting. Five states -- Texas, New Mexico,
21 Arizona, Connecticut, and Maine -- and hundreds of local
22 governments already have ordinances restricting the use
23 of lighting. In our own county, Redmond and Shoreline
24 have more stringent lighting restrictions than the city
25 of Seattle. Light pollution is a serious environmental

1 concern, and we should look to communities that have
2 taken steps to reduce this pollution.

3 I would like to make two other points. The first
4 is that my comments about no scientific examination of
5 the lighting also apply to noise and construction. I
6 don't think those impacts have been measured or projected
7 in any scientific way. The DEIS says that neighbors have
8 not complained about noise in the parks. I don't know
9 why that is, because it often is quite noisy, especially
10 when there are large tournaments. With the increased
11 usage of the parks that is being proposed, the noise will
12 increase greatly.

13 Finally, I am not as eloquent as my former boss,
14 Bob Santos, but I do work for the Department of Housing
15 and Urban Development, and I am very concerned about the
16 impact on the people living in the transitional housing.
17 I get on the first bus, number 74 bus, at 6:05 in the
18 morning. There is a man who rides the bus with me who
19 lives at Santos Place. There are also four children who
20 get on the bus and go to school.

21 I think the city did a wonderful thing when they
22 supported development of that housing, and I hope they
23 will not reverse their good actions by putting in these
24 sportsfields that are going to interfere with people's
25 ability to go to school, gain and keep employment, and

1 transition from temporary housing and homelessness to
2 permanent housing.

4 TESTIMONY OF LAUREN BRADEN

T10

5 Good evening everyone and thank you for this
6 opportunity to speak. My name is Lauren Braden. I am
7 the advocate for wildlife habitat for Seattle Audubon
8 Society, and our address 8050 35th Avenue Northeast,
9 98115.

Duplicate
Testimony.
Please
refer to
Comment
Record
O15,
Comments
1-37.

10 I am here today to deliver our organization's
11 official testimony. I obviously don't have time to cover
12 everything, and we will be submitting written comments
13 with far more detail before February 28th. In addition
14 to myself we have several members and volunteers here
15 today who will be speaking and expanding on some of the
16 specific areas of the DEIS that I don't have time to talk
17 about.

18 Seattle Audubon has a long history of involvement
19 at Sand Point Magnuson. I am sure most of the people
20 here today would agree that Magnuson is a very special
21 place. Many of our 5,000 members come to Magnuson Park
22 to watch birds, to observe nature, and just to get away
23 from the daily stresses of our urban life. Because of
24 this, Seattle Audubon has been involved in Magnuson Park
25 design and planning from the start. We fought long and

1 hard to ensure that unstructured recreational
2 opportunities and the wildlife habitat here are minimally
3 impacted all of the new projects that are in store.

4 We have been disappointed nearly every step of the
5 way, because the outcome has almost always been less than
6 we had hoped for. What we observed over the past several
7 years in the city is -- and it's particularly evident
8 here at Magnuson -- is a steady losing battle to retain
9 unstructured open space.

10 The purpose of the strong presence here at this
11 hearing today -- for us, anyway -- is to help minimize
12 the environmental impacts of all these projects as they
13 are planned to occur today. We're placing faith in the
14 hope that the scope of these planned projects do not get
15 worse or bigger still.

16 The DEIS that we're here to comment on is actually
17 a pretty good document. I have five overall comments.

18 We do strongly disagree with the city piecemealing
19 the impact assessment of the various projects going on at
20 Magnuson Park. Because all of the various projects are
21 related, the cumulative environmental impacts are not
22 addressed and considered in this piecemealing process.
23 We've continuously asked that the city consider all
24 land-use actions together, rather than as separate
25 actions, and conduct one full environmental impact

1 statement for the entire park.

2 Two, we found some facts and statistics to be
3 misleading, such as parking and traffic projections in
4 the DEIS. One example where the analysis seems
5 particularly off -- while the number of cars are
6 projected to double in a given day, only a three percent
7 increase in traffic is projected. We will detail more of
8 these in our written comments and cite specific page
9 numbers.

10 Three, we are concerned about the length of
11 disruption and construction. Four, the Magnuson
12 Vegetation Management Plan that was recently passed needs
13 to be somehow incorporated into the final EIS. For
14 example, Herb pointed out the importance of these tall
15 poplar trees for raptor perching. We want to make sure
16 that at any given time a certain number of tall trees are
17 maintained for those raptors.

18 And five, you have outlined specific projections
19 for increased use of the park, such as an increase in the
20 number of people that will be using the park and
21 increased number of cars, et cetera. What we don't see
22 are projections for the increase in the impacts that
23 these additional people will be having.

24 For example, many of these new users will bring
25 their dogs and let them off leash. We already have a

1 serious problems with off-leash dogs outside of the
2 designated area, and it's logical to conclude that with
3 an increase in the number of park visitors there will be
4 a correlative increase in the number of off-leash dog
5 violations. These impacts and how the park will respond,
6 such as increased educational signage and more
7 enforcement fines, are not addressed in the EIS.

8 As for specific comments -- I am getting low on
9 time -- I wanted to point out two comments regarding
10 traffic and transportation. We think it's unfortunate
11 that the largest sportsfield complex in the regions is
12 going to be placed in a location that really only
13 encourages transportation by car. There is only one bus
14 route that serves Magnuson Park, and transit access to
15 the park needs to be vastly improved considering the
16 number of people that will be coming here for the sports
17 complex.

18 The DEIS does not address any alternatives other
19 than having people who come to the park do so in cars
20 that will need adequate parking. So why have you not
21 considered some simple incentives like priority parking
22 for carpools? It's just one example. We urge you to
23 address this in the DEIS.

24 One more -- the mass entrances and exits of cars
25 during game times are not -- they are vastly understated.

1 I guess I am out of time. Thank you for the opportunity
2 to speak and feel free to contact us for more information
3 on any of our comments.

5 TESTIMONY OF MARILYN SANDALL

T11

6 Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this
7 hearing. I am Marilyn Sandall. I am a member of the
8 Seattle Audubon Conservation Committee, and also a
9 neighbor of Sand Point Magnuson Park.

10 I appreciate that the DEIS has included statements
11 about the significant negative impact of the proposed
12 sportsfield lighting on residents and expected wildlife
13 in the park. Because the studies are limited, to
14 minimize possible affects on birds and wildlife we would
15 prefer no artificial lighting.

1
S/O4

16 We know that artificial or night lighting can
17 impact migrating, wintering, and breeding wildlife.
18 Migrating song and shore birds are attracted to bright
19 lights, particularly on overcast or foggy nights when
20 stars are not visible. The effect of the lighting is
21 exacerbated by water droplets. Night lighting impacts
22 nesting success, may increase predation, increases
23 mortality, and changes the population dynamics of birds
24 and other wildlife in the area. Lighting affects
25 photoperiodic behavior in animals, including forage and

2
WDLF

1 reproduction.

2 Dr. John Wingfield, Chair of the University of
3 Washington Department of Zoology said in a telephone
4 conversation that, "Artificial lighting can result in
5 premature breeding as the change in light levels in
6 spring is the signal that triggers preparation for
7 migration and breeding." Day length is a critical
8 determinant of animal behavior.

2
WDLF1
(cont'd)

9 I have five concerns that were not addressed in the
10 DEIS. One, if the proposed sportsfield lights are on
11 until 11 p.m. nightly, they will extend the day length
12 from two-and-a-half to seven hours per day, depending on
13 the season. The DEIS has no plans to mitigate the effect
14 of extending daylight on wildlife by not lighting the
15 sportsfields.

3
WDLF1

16 Two, this DEIS has not adequately measured the
17 effects of the proposed lighting under wet conditions.
18 Three, there are no plans to measure the effects of spill
19 glare and reflected glow in the wetland over time. There
20 may be as-yet-unknown effects to mitigate in the future.

21 Four, the DEIS has not done a statement of
22 potential impact of the cumulative effects of all the
23 lighting in the park -- the sportsfields, parking lots,
24 tennis courts, off-leash area, and current lighting on
25 buildings and streets within the park. Some of the

4
L&G3

existing lights are not fully shielded at this time.

Five, the DEIS includes comments about some of these effects, but it does not suggest adequate mitigation measures. There is no plan to create new sportsfields without artificial lights. There is not even a plan to eliminate the lights that are not full cutoff at the two large baseball fields. There is no mention of limiting the hours of sportsfield lighting, particularly during breeding and migration periods.

There is no mention of planning vegetation that would shield the wetland from the effects of night lighting.

As a neighbor, I would like to say that I could see the sportsfield lighting demonstration while lying in bed. They were as bright as halogen headlights. I found the glare from the conventional light egregious. The DEIS does not recognize that glare is visible from the hillside above the Burke-Gilman Trail. Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF PETER BRUNDRED

I am Peter Brundred. My address is 7343 57th Avenue Northeast. I live just above the park. I have been a resident for approximately 14 years. I have a few specific comments.

First, about the traffic volume analysis -- I was reviewing the draft EIS and figures 3.12.6 and table

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SEPA3
SEPA8

6
L&G2

T12

1
TRAN1

1 3.12.7. Looking at the conclusions, the total number of
2 new trips that the draft presents is approximately 450
3 new vehicle trips based on 11 new athletic fields. When
4 you look at the volume of peak traffic on Sand Point,
5 it's roughly about 700 cars in the peak hour of the day.
6 So my understanding is they're talking about increasing
7 the vehicle traffic from about 700 cars in a peak hour to
8 roughly 975 or over a thousand vehicles per hour. And
9 this is going to happen at 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7, 8 p.m.
10 as people are coming and going to different scheduled
11 activities.

12 I just have a hard time understanding what the
13 backup is going to look like at 45th and Union Bay. I
14 already know that intersection. I have lived with it for
15 the last 15 years. I know what the backup is going to
16 start to look like on Sand Point Way at Children's
17 Hospital at that light. I know what the backup is going
18 to look like at Sand Point Way and 65th. I know what the
19 backup is going to be like trying to turn left on 70th
20 just to get home.

21 Pretty soon it's going to take half an hour to get
22 from the University District to my house, and those kinds
23 of human impacts aren't reflected or even described in
24 the level of service changing from a level B to a level
25 C. The summary there just doesn't really capture the

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TRAN
(cont'd)

1 impact to the neighborhood and the people who live here.

2 I am also concerned about the traffic safety. I
3 have personally witnessed over the years about a half
4 dozen accidents at the entrance to Children's Hospital or
5 that intersection where that light is. It wasn't
6 identified in the intersections that they looked at for
7 traffic safety. That's just one of a number of areas.

8 I am also concerned about traffic safety on our
9 residential streets. We have neighborhood parks on 70th
10 Avenue. There are lot of children, young families, that
11 use those parks and seeing again an estimated about a
12 hundred vehicles every hour or two passing through --
13 they're just passing through. They're transient
14 vehicles. They don't live in the neighborhood. They
15 don't care about the local residents per se. They're
16 just in a hurry to get to a game. That's going to cause
17 some problems.

18 The other issue I want to specifically address is
19 light glare. I think that Lower Woodland Park
20 demonstrates that the City Parks and Recreation
21 Department has a very low regard for light glare for the
22 neighborhood. I think the light glare over there is
23 atrocious. I think if Parks and Recreation is truly
24 concerned about light glare they should immediately fix
25 the problem with light glare at Woodland Park.

1
TRAN
(cont'd)

2
L&G2

1 I take exception to the statement in section
2 3.9.2.1 that the single-family residences west of
3 Burke-Gilman and above 125 feet will have limited or no
4 exposure to direct glare. I think that's a ridiculous
5 comment in the draft EIS as demonstrated by the lighting
6 demonstration. We had significant light glare.

2
L&G2
(cont'd)

7 I agree with the comment of halogen lights. I
8 would like to suggest that anyone on the city council or
9 Parks and Recreation would like to have five or six
10 hundred vehicles with bright halogen lights staring in
11 their living room or bedrooms. That is what the effect
12 is going to be like. In people terms, it's just not very
13 neighborly, and I think it's a very poor city planning
14 decision.

15 The other comment that I will make is just again
16 the esthetic impact of the park. I am not a member of
17 the Audubon Society, although I certainly appreciate and
18 share some of their values. But again as a resident of
19 the Northwest and Seattle, the idea of taking our
20 mountain and lake views -- which has been a Northwest
21 value -- and basically replacing it by how many acres of
22 artificial turf and night lighting to me feels and sounds
23 a lot like southern California. I didn't choose to live
24 in southern California and I have no idea why the city
25 council would like to re-create that environment here in

3
AES1

1 the Northwest. I think that's a very large mistake.

2 Thank you.

3
AES1
(cont'd)

4 TESTIMONY OF GORDON RUH

T13

5 My name is Gordon Ruh. I live at 7306 58th Avenue
6 Northeast. I am a 45-year resident of Viewridge.

7 My first comments pertain to sportsfields 7 and 8.
8 Is there any chance you could just point out 7 and 8?
9 They have been referenced several times, but I think
10 everybody needs to know where they are.

11 The proposed action calls for the installation of
12 152 conventional floodlights on those particular fields.
13 The layout of these two fields results in four banks of
14 lights being oriented directly into the hillside homes.
15 The DEIS acknowledges the light trespass issues with the
16 conventional systems proposed for these two fields, but
17 fails to put forth any mitigating measures in the
18 lesser-capacity alternative. There needs to be some
19 other alternative put forth for those fields.

1
SEPA3

20 A second issue I take exception with -- and if we
21 could put the other picture back up -- is the statement
22 contained in the DEIS that says virtually all of the
23 single-family residential area west of Sand Point Way is
24 located west of the Burke-Gilman Trail and above the
25 elevation of 125 feet, and would have limited or no

2
L&G2

1 exposure to direct glare from the sportsfield lights.
2 Those particular pictures there were taken at about the
3 190- to 200-foot level on 56th Avenue. Clearly that
4 shows that glare is being experienced by residents well
5 above the 125-foot contour.

6 Viewridge residents were able to witness
7 significant levels of glare in their living rooms and
8 bedrooms at elevations above the 125-foot contour. The
9 demonstration was done using three poles and 12
10 luminaries, while the proposed action calls for the
11 installation of 90 poles and 640 luminaries.

12 By definition glare is light that hinders or
13 bothers the human eye. The proposed action has 640,000
14 watts of light trespassing into the surrounding
15 neighborhoods and negatively impacting residents' daily
16 lives.

17 The DEIS superficially acknowledges impacts that
18 the sportsfield lighting will have on wildlife and Sand
19 Point Magnuson Park. Lights disrupt the migrating
20 patterns of birds, the feeding and breeding patterns of
21 animals, and will force fish into deeper waters to avoid
22 shorebird predation.

23 The DEIS does not, however, address or even
24 recognize the impact that the lighting systems will have
25 on inhabitants of the area. The proposed lighting alone

2
L&G2
(cont'd)

3
WDLF1

4
L&G2
NOI1

1 is enough to disrupt the circadian rhythm of nearby human
2 inhabitants. When coupled with the associated noise from
3 extending play to 11 p.m., the combination will result in
4 a severe impact on human beings being forced to live in
5 this unnatural environment.

4
L&G2
NOI1
(cont'd)

6 Lastly, the DEIS downplays the significance of the
7 sky glow effect that will be produced by the sports
8 lighting complex. As backdrop for claiming no
9 significant increase in sky glow, the DEIS compares Sand
10 Point Magnuson Park with a heavily urbanized environment.
11 This is simply not the case. If you look at the picture
12 -- take out the three poles of lights -- you'll see the
13 sports meadow is black, the proposed wetlands area is
14 dark, the shoreline area is dark, and ultimately when
15 that commissary is taken out, that area will be dark.
16 This is not a heavily urbanized environment.

5
L&G1

17 Now just a couple last points here. The DEIS
18 references the Vegetation Management Plan. It was
19 drafted here for Magnuson Park. That plan is not
20 available. You couldn't look at that plan and comment on
21 the EIS because it is not available. Likewise, also
22 referenced in the DEIS is the joint athletic field or
23 facilities development program being drafted by parks in
24 the school district. That is the overriding policy that
25 guides the development of sportsfields in the city of

6
SEPA17

1 Seattle. That document is also not complete. It has not
2 made it past the parks board and to the city council yet.
3 That is the guiding policy for sportsfield development
4 all across the city. How can they go forward with
5 developing this sports complex before that document is
6 complete?

6
SEPA17
(cont'd)

7 The 11 p.m. cutoff for the lights is what's
8 proposed. That's for the sportsfield lights. That does
9 not take into consideration the security lights which are
10 mounted on the top of the 75- or 85-foot poles. So if
11 you're worried about lighting into the wildlife and
12 surrounding area, lights will be on past 11 o'clock.
13 Thank you.

7
L&G2
WDLF1

14
15 TESTIMONY OF JEANETTE WILLIAMS

T14

16 My name is Jeanette Williams, and I am speaking as
17 an individual, not for the liaison committee. We will be
18 submitting our statements, because we meet tomorrow. But
19 I would like to do a little change of pace and talk about
20 bicycles just a bit.

21 For general information, the city of Seattle has a
22 traffic code and there is a bicycle code section in it.
23 The bicycle is defined as a non-powered vehicle and as
24 such is required to be obey all traffic laws and safety
25 regulations. These include traveling in a speed neither

1 faster nor slower than ongoing traffic. Bicycles are not
2 to be used on sidewalks, and bicycles must give
3 pedestrians the right-of-way at all times.

4 We have planned for a long time -- and is in
5 existence -- the bicycle path starting at Northeast 65th
6 at this time. The proposed plan calls for separated
7 bikeways. The bikeway is 12 feet wide and pedestrian
8 pathway is eight feet wide.

9 The 12 foot is over generous. Standard access is
10 10 feet, and so the suggestion is that the pathway be
11 reduced by two feet to the standard 10 feet and that
12 extra two feet be given to pedestrians.

13 As far as the bicycles in the park are concerned,
14 there is nothing stated. What concerns me very much is
15 what happens to the walkway along the waterfront? I am
16 very afraid that, if this silence exists, we will have
17 Greenlake all over again at the waterfront. I think that
18 should not happen. The bikes really must be separated
19 from the pedestrian walkway.

20 We have had the occasion of what happened at
21 Greenlake, which took forever to get corrected. It is
22 starting to happen now on the Burke-Gilman Trail as the
23 bikers are very aggressive in using the pathway and they
24 are having lots of people now trying use Magnuson.

25 If we don't separate the bikes off of Magnuson Park

1
PD8

1 -- and it has to be from the very beginning -- from the
2 waterfront walkway, you'll never get them out of there.
3 The plan calls for a removal of the parking on one side
4 of the road that goes along the waterfront. And the
5 recommendation is -- and I hope this gets serious
6 consideration -- simply putting the bikes on that vacated
7 place.

8 The other thing I would like to -- and I will be
9 sending in these recommendations. I don't know if you
10 have the -- what I am asking for, I think, is just
11 reasonable and standard and should be followed through.

12 The other one I want to talk about is the energy
13 used on the ball fields. I have heard a lot of what has
14 been said here already. A lot of the fields would use
15 645,000 kilowatt hours annually. The cost of developing
16 this is around \$45,700. What is in error here is the EIS
17 is considering the wrong set of figures.

18 About a decade ago if you recall we had an energy
19 crisis in Seattle, and the result of that was an effort
20 to build up nuclear plants. The city of Seattle did not
21 go along with that. Instead we looked to another source,
22 and that is conservation, and that conservation policy
23 exists. A more efficient use of electricity and more
24 careful use by the citizens produces extra power.

25 We have no added growth for power in this area. It

1
PD8
(cont'd)

2
ENR1

1 doesn't exist any more. We must go out and buy it at a
2 very expensive rate. In other words, whatever is coming
3 in comes out of our pockets too. But City Light did not
4 turn to others, and all I can say is we had a recent
5 experience on conservation measures.

6 What the EIS should be looking to is the capacity
7 of City Light to produce power, not of -- as they say in
8 this statement, it's just one percent of whatever it is,
9 because that is not a real statement. That is not what
10 it costs us, and we will be voting against ourselves if
11 the levy goes through. Thank you. So in affect if you
12 add this to the other lighted fields being proposed
13 across the city, I think we will find ourselves in a lot
14 of power crunch and will be asked to conserve again.

2
ENR1
(cont'd)

15
16 TESTIMONY OF DORIAN TREMAINE

T15

17 I am Dorian Tremaine. I live at 10645 Sand Point
18 Way Northeast. I would like to say that I am really glad
19 to be coming up at this point. I have heard an awful lot
20 of really excellent comments. I am so glad that everyone
21 has been saying what they have been saying, because it
22 goes a little further than some of what I have written
23 here. But I am really glad to hear all of your comments.

24 I think that in my heart of hearts I would like to
25 see the park land left as open space, personally, at

1
S/O5

1 least a majority of it left as open space. I think there
2 is a dwindling amount of that available. In fact, this
3 is really the last area here in the city. I think it's
4 very precious just as it is. Like Herb Curl, I have sort
5 of resigned myself to some development here. Let me read
6 what I have.

1
S/O5
(cont'd)

7 I attended a parks board meeting last week
8 concerning the joint athletic fields project, and I was
9 struck by the way in which many of the persons speaking
10 in favor of the project -- this athletic field project,
11 which includes a provision to set aside the concerns
12 raised by the neighborhood that will bear the greatest
13 impact of those fields -- the people speaking in favor of
14 this plan praised the board and the city for the plan and
15 the wisdom of moving forward with it.

16 There were also a large number of people who were
17 not praising the city. I got the distinct impression
18 that they were adamantly against the plan as it is. It
19 appears that the athletic lobby is getting most of what
20 they want and the neighborhoods around the fields are
21 getting the shaft.

22 Here at Magnuson we see some of the same division
23 between the interest groups and the surrounding
24 communities. The land itself is being carved up and
25 divided as well. To some of us it only makes sense to

1 consider the park as a whole when determining and
2 mitigating impacts on the land and the community.

3 But it has become apparent that the Parks
4 Department no longer believes in its ability to broker
5 agreements and mitigate these problems between these
6 polarized groups, and is prepared to give away the
7 esthetics of this park land and neighborhood to the
8 highest bidder and the loudest voice.

9 There have been agreements broken and some pretty
10 sneaky things going on down here. I come here today with
11 the hope that my words will actually have some impact and
12 not be ignored. I am one member of this community who
13 does not support the proposed action in this draft
14 environmental impact study at Magnuson Park, and some of
15 my reasons are as follows.

16 Lighting under the proposed action includes 80
17 poles ranging from 65 to 85 feet -- this will all be
18 redundant -- to be installed in the 11 synthetic surface
19 sportsfields, 73 poles at 40 feet high for the roads and
20 parking lots, 17 poles at 20 feet for the pedestrian
21 path.

22 This does not take into account lighting for areas
23 of the park not included in this draft impact study. The
24 the lighting demonstration offered by parks cannot
25 adequately illustrate the impact of all this lighting.

2
L&G3
SEPA5

1 Humanity does not possess the ability to stop light
2 trespass sufficiently to keep this park from looking like
3 a shopping mall at night.

2
L&G3
SEPA5
(cont'd)

4 The authors of this study feel that the effects
5 will be minimal and unavoidable. I believe this much
6 lighting will be most damaging to the birds and
7 amphibians in the wetland habitat and will invade the
8 homes of those families living on the site and in the
9 surrounding neighborhood.

3
WDLF1

10 My number one response to this would be not to
11 light the fields at all or at least implement the
12 lesser-capacity alternative proposal and use best science
13 when implementing those lights or when designing the
14 lights. And do not light any fields directly adjacent to
15 the wetlands, and limit the hours of use to 10 p.m. at
16 the latest, but save money, electricity, and maybe a
17 portion of the tranquility in the neighborhood.

4
SEPA3

18 Traffic -- I have not studied this portion as
19 closely as some of the other people have studied the
20 traffic problems, but it goes without saying that the
21 facility as proposed in the DEIS will often attract
22 hundreds of cars and thousands of users and the
23 associated pressures on the community. The areas of the
24 park not included in the study will also attract hundreds
25 of cars and people.

5
TRAN1

1 Some of these areas are being developed even now or
2 they will soon be developed, and the impacts coupled with
3 what is proposed here in the impact study or with the
4 park plan will significantly increase traffic in spite of
5 the downplaying that is in the study. They have
6 downplayed the impact very much.

5
TRAN1
(cont'd)

7 It seems to me as if the Parks Department approach
8 of dividing up the park and the information will make
9 their proposals more palatable for the dissenters in the
10 community.

11 Wetland habitat is the other big one. I think that
12 we need to be very sensitive to the light impact on the
13 wetlands and I would like to see the city work in concert
14 with the Audubon Society and other knowledgeable groups
15 that can give them better information. Thank you.

6
WDLF1

17 TESTIMONY OF VANCE THOMPSON

T16

18 I am here to speak as a parent of two grown
19 children that went through the CYO soccer program, former
20 soccer coordinator for a number of years at St. Joseph
21 grade school and middle school, former adult soccer
22 player, baseball adult teams.

23 However, I have grave concerns about the DEIS and
24 the proposed development of Safeco -- excuse me. I am
25 going lead into that here, folks. Bear with me. I guess

1 it's when I saw the photograph I just thought about
2 Ichiro in center field.

3 I want to make some comparison to Safeco Field,
4 because a lot of you have covered a lot of the
5 information that's in the DEIS better than I could. So
6 as an engineer interested in statistics, I am going to
7 talk a little bit about the comparisons.

8 The sportsfields represent 88 acres of the proposed
9 153 acres of the site. That's 58 percent of the entire
10 park that's going to be sportsfields. Safeco Field is
11 19.6 acres. Hmm.

12 Two of the largest baseball fields -- the actual
13 size of the field is only 35 feet short of center field
14 at Safeco Field. And there are two of those fields and
15 there are three smaller softball fields.

16 Five baseball fields with conventional shielded
17 lights at 75 to 85 feet. Safeco Field has 535 lights.
18 One might ask what wattage. Well, they're 2,000 watts.
19 We're going to have a thousand watts. You do the math.
20 535 lights, 2,000 watts, 640 at a thousand watts, and you
21 end up with -- I like to call it the light farm,
22 actually. That's what it's going to look like.

23 It's going to be 60 percent of the lights if you're
24 at Safeco Field, and they're going to be spread from 65th
25 to 74th. That's going to look like -- well, it's going

1
PD11

1 to be brighter than Sea-Tac because it's going to be lit
2 uniformly all along Sand Point Way.

3 Another comparison you might consider is that
4 Safeco Field has a roof and has high walls for the fans
5 to keep the light in. We will not have that.

6 There has been mention of the lights at all the
7 parking lots being put in for the sportsfield. It was
8 admitted, I believe, in testimony at a previous hearing
9 that those lights will be on a little later than 11
10 o'clock because they have to get off the field and go
11 change their muddy uniform and break out the beer and
12 drive home.

13 The DEIS on Page 1-23 admits that this is a
14 six-fold expansion of the present sports use of the
15 fields at Magnuson Park. One might ask where is the
16 equity in this? I urge all of you to look at the Joint
17 Athletic Development Field Proposal that, as Mr. Ruh
18 pointed out, has still not been approved and is being
19 ramrodded through. Comments are due by the 8th of
20 February on that document. I would urge you all to write
21 the city council and the Parks Department on that.

22 In a public hearing that I was not in attendance
23 at, but reported by several people who attended, the
24 lighting consultant admitted that the natural surface
25 fields can be up to 30 percent more reflected light off

1
PD11
(cont'd)

2
L&G3

3
SEPA17

4
L&G1

1 the surface of the field. So the sky glow comments in
2 the DEIS are at best misleading and at worst completely
3 erroneous.

4
L&G1
(cont'd)

4 On page 2-11 of the DEIS it talks about how this
5 will become the premiere sports facility in the city and
6 then starts to migrate out and talks about the
7 northeastern part of the city. Then it mentions the
8 broader city participation and the surrounding region.
9 So essentially this is going to be a regional development
10 park for people in the entire -- around Lake Washington
11 who will come to this. So I guess it's not too
12 surprising that the DEIS says there are 2,260 cars per
13 day additional above the present traffic.

14 I believe that the development violates the SEPA
15 rules for the city of Seattle -- and thank you for
16 coming.

17
18 TESTIMONY OF FLETCHER SHIVES

T17

19 I am Fletcher Shives. I live at 7727 58th Avenue
20 Northeast.

21 The cumulative impacts are totally inadequately
22 discussed in the draft EIS. In considering cumulative
23 impacts the DEIS cannot dismiss a factor that is
24 seemingly insignificant, and especially so when there is
25 no documentation to show that the single impact is

1
SEPA5

1 insignificant. Rather, once the total contribution of
2 the impact becomes significant, no individual part may be
3 dismissed as insignificant. Taken as a whole, the sum of
4 the parts is significant and it is that sum which must be
5 addressed.

6 At Sand Point Magnuson Park the sum of the light
7 impacts -- which is cumulatively significant -- includes
8 high intensity security and area illumination installed
9 by the city since the Navy departed, some of which are
10 directed -- in violation of city policy -- toward
11 residential areas, high intensity parking lot lights for
12 satellite parking for Children's Hospital -- which may
13 also be in violation of city zoning -- area illumination
14 for low-income housing, which includes lights that are
15 not only unshielded but in fact send more light skyward
16 than toward the ground, past temporary installation of
17 high-intensity parking lot lights in the north shore area
18 which have been directed towards residential areas,
19 proposed lighting for tennis courts, proposed lighting
20 for the off-leash area which is significant because it
21 encroaches on an area which is not now illuminated and
22 adjacent to the lake and natural areas.

23 Those listed lights are known to be significant
24 based on the complaints made to Sand Point Magnuson Park
25 in the past. It must also be noted that the previous EIS

1
SEPA5
(cont'd)

2
L&G3

1 for the transfer of the naval station to the city
2 dismissed consideration of lights on the basis that there
3 would be no bright light installed in that park. The
4 city has now installed many lights without benefit of
5 environmental review or even up-front public comment.
6 All of those must be taken into account in the final EIS.

7 Alternatives. The EIS fails to consider off-site
8 alternatives on the patently absurd basis that the
9 project proponent, through the Joint Athletic Field
10 Development Plan, did not propose any other sites. The
11 state environmental policy act specifically exempts only
12 private projects from off-site alternative consideration.
13 That exemption is found at Washington Administrative Code
14 197-11 (440) (5) (d).

15 Moreover, the State Supreme Court has found that
16 public projects must consider off-site alternatives. The
17 case is Weyerhauser versus Pierce County, cited as 124
18 Washington 2d. 26, 873, P.2d 498 (1994). In that
19 particular case not only was it only a quasi-public
20 project as it was Weyerhauser doing the work, but the
21 Supreme Court found that even if it was a private project
22 fulfilling a public purpose that it must consider
23 off-site alternatives.

24 This is strictly a public project on public land
25 with readily-available public alternatives for locations

2
L&G3
(cont'd)

3
SEPA1

1 of lighted fields. Alternatives must reasonable and
2 capable of being done to merit consideration. Plainly it
3 is reasonable and practical to provide lights at other
4 athletic fields in the city.

3
SEPA1
(cont'd)

5 Indeed, spreading the illuminated fields throughout
6 the city with no one site having a large number could
7 have positive environmental benefits, reduce traffic and
8 noise at any one site, reduce the energy used to travel
9 across the city to reach one large-capacity site, reduce
10 pollution as a result of reduced travel, greater
11 opportunity for other neighborhoods to enjoy the stated
12 benefits of illuminated fields.

13 Lesser-capacity alternatives. The so-called
14 lesser-capacity alternative is a sham proposal and in
15 fact it was the original, primary proposal that is made
16 by the JAFDP. The DEIS states that it is a lesser
17 capacity when in fact it eliminates none of the
18 highest-output lights and the lights with the relative
19 greatest impact on the environment.

4
SEPA2

20 Light and glare. The city passes over much too
21 easily the effects of sky glow, the effects of light on
22 the surrounding neighborhood, and on the natural
23 environment by saying these factors are not measurable.
24 Atmospheric scattering is readily measurable. The folks
25 right across the way here at National Weather Service

5
L&G1

1 would be happy to show the city how to do that. And that
2 has a direct affect on sky glow. It also has a direct
3 affect on what appears to be glare in the photograph even
4 from the full cutoff lights. It reflection on the field
5 surfaces and the parking lots -- which also looks like
6 glare in the photo due to overexposure -- is also going
7 to have a major affect on the neighbors and the natural
8 environment, as are the probably-illegal parking lot
9 lights on the commissary. I will submit written comments
10 by February 28th.

5
L&G1
(cont'd)

TESTIMONY OF AQUILLA CRANSHAW

T18

11
12
13 Hi. My name is Aquilla Cranshaw and I live at 6524
14 62nd Avenue Northeast, and that's right in the park.

15 My concern -- my first concern -- is with the
16 lights. If they're coming into the window, the
17 artificial lights -- my son has seizures and it can bring
18 on seizures. The artificial lights can bring on seizures
19 in people who are susceptible to them. So if you can
20 find a way to make sure the lights don't go into living
21 rooms, bedrooms, and all that, that would be very
22 helpful, because it's hard having to deal with the lights
23 when there is a baby who has seizures and you can't turn
24 them off when he is having a seizure and is going to
25 continue. I think you should bring that into

1
L&G2

1 consideration when you're thinking about this.

2 Also -- I am trying to keep this as short as
3 possible -- I just want to bring up that I think that we
4 should take into consideration everybody's comments.
5 Everybody has a good point and have to live here and we
6 have to deal with the lights, the noise, the traffic, and
7 we have our concerns with our children. And we just --
8 we don't want to deal with that extra noise.

2
S/O4

9 And if you take everybody's comments into
10 consideration I think that would be good. And if we can
11 all come together and try to find a solution, that would
12 be nice. And also I don't think we should try to be
13 making parks right now when we have a budget problem.
14 The government is giving \$12 million to a park when we
15 can't even really afford it. We have to cut from daycare
16 and all kinds of other programs and we want to build a
17 park that's \$12 million. \$12 million -- do you know what
18 that can do? That can pay for a lot of people to have
19 daycare, because right now daycare is going to be cut.

3
SEPA11

20 So I think we should take this all into
21 consideration before we build this park, we disrupt
22 people's lives by bringing in traffic, noise, and that we
23 don't want to deal with, and that we should take into
24 consideration people's health too. Thank you.

4
TRAN1
NOI1

TESTIMONY OF DENIKA SEET

T19

1
2 Hello. My name is Denika Seet. I am at 6524 62nd
3 Avenue Northeast. It's the Harmony House. It's a
4 transitional living facility at the top of Sand Point.

5 My concern is as far as the lights. I already have
6 a problem in my room -- I already have problems with
7 lights because the lights reflect onto a tree and then
8 onto my room. So before I go to bed I have to make sure
9 all the lights are off in the house.

1
L&G2

10 And I feel that as far as the lights -- when I go
11 to other big stadiums or stuff like that, you can see the
12 lights in the sky. That's the only problem I have.

2
TRAN1

13 And as far as traffic coming down 65th, it's a very
14 little -- it's a very little driveway. You know, just
15 like one lane here, one lane here. To us children and
16 grown-ups, we have to walk up that way, and if there is
17 traffic coming up and down that way, there is more
18 accidents can be caused.

19 And as far as the noise, I have to get up and go to
20 work. I have to be gone by 8 o'clock in the morning. We
21 have to -- I have to be in bed by 9:30, be up and dress
22 and be gone in the morning. And so I feel like the noise
23 is going to be a big problem. Thank you.

3
NOI1

TESTIMONY OF GREG ECKERMAN

Good afternoon. My name is Greg Eckerman. My address is 6940 62nd Avenue Northeast. I work for Sand Point Community Housing Association. I have been involved in developing the housing here at Sand Point.

I started working outside Sand Point in January of 1997, back when there was just a few of us. There were only electric heaters in the mid-wintertime to keep warm. So I have witnessed all the changes that have taken place so far and am familiar at that time competing interests and perspectives for how to develop the park.

Today I think the city -- which means the mayor's office, the city council, and the parks department -- has done a reasonable job of balancing these different interests in an effort to develop the park in the manner that is going accommodate many uses for the benefit of the broader community, creating a park where different interests and activities can coexist.

However, in regards to the sportsfield proposal, I think the interests of the sports people and perhaps the mission of the parks department and its staff are being promoted at the expense of the surrounding neighbors, the people who live on-site, and other user groups and interests.

Today I speak on behalf of the Housing Association,

Duplicate
testimony.
Please
refer to
Comment
Record
O12,
Comments
1-6.

1 the volunteer board of directors, the 158 adults, youth,
2 and children who live here right now, and the thousands
3 of homeless people who will live here in the future, who
4 will live on the sixth site after the association
5 develops housing there.

6 While I support the creation of more usable
7 sportsfields, I strongly oppose the project as proposed
8 because not enough consideration has been given to the
9 impact this development will have on park neighbors,
10 especially people living on campus, because the light and
11 noise generated by this project will significantly impact
12 people living close by in an extremely adverse manner,
13 and because much more could be done to mitigate these
14 adverse impacts.

15 The draft EIS right off the bat acknowledges that
16 the sportsfield lights will have a significant, adverse
17 impact on people living on campus, and I quote, "One
18 unresolved issue associated with this proposed action
19 concerns the potential significant, adverse impacts from
20 sportsfield lights on the existing residential area
21 between Sand Point Way Northeast and Sportsfield Drive
22 within Sand Point Magnuson Park, and possibly on some
23 units in the Madison Court Apartment Complex. These
24 potential impacts appear to be unavoidable with the
25 project as proposed, and the evaluation today has not

1 identified mitigation measures that would necessarily
2 limit these impacts to an insignificant level," closed
3 quote.

4 In spite of this conclusion, the parks department
5 is proposing to develop 11 sportsfields with 640 lights
6 that would be up until 11 o'clock at night, 365 days a
7 year. Many of the lights on the baseball fields will be
8 pointed west, right at the homes of families that live
9 close by. Plus, there will be hundreds of more lights on
10 the roads, parking lots, and pathways.

11 I don't know what assumptions or thinking led to
12 the parks department decision to propose this project
13 knowing that they will impact people living on campus.
14 Perhaps the planners thought that since this is
15 transitional housing that people would live for here for
16 a few years, that it would be okay or tolerable for them.
17 Whatever the thinking, it was wrong-headed and not
18 reasonable. The people living closest to this project
19 and who would be impacted the most should be given every
20 consideration, even more consideration than other groups
21 or interests, regardless of whether they are homeless or
22 living there for two years or whatever the rationale.

23 The proposed project is not acceptable. These
24 people's lives will be extremely disrupted in the quality
25 of life for the people living at Sand Point. There are

1 adults and children of all ages living here, including
2 many school-age children. Many of the adults get up at
3 the crack of dawn to get to work or school. The impact
4 on their sleeping patterns, their ability to enjoy some
5 peace and quiet, the loss of privacy, the intrusion of
6 lights into their homes, and every movement outside is
7 not acceptable. An enjoyable place to live will turn
8 into a nightmare.

9 The draft EIS proposes mitigation measures which
10 includes using special kinds of lights and minimizing
11 lights on the road, parking areas, and pathways. Yet the
12 draft EIS states the following. "Some of the specific
13 light and glare impact on the proposed action or the
14 lesser-capacity alternative would represent significant,
15 adverse, unavoidable impacts. Direct exposure to glare
16 from the sportsfields lights on some residents who are
17 immediately adjacent to the project site appears to be
18 unavoidable. Even with the mitigation features
19 incorporated into the project design."

20 The draft EIS also identified other possible
21 mitigation measures that are not part of the parks
22 department proposal. These include restricted hours of
23 operation of the sportsfield lights, either for the
24 complex as a whole or for the fields closest to the
25 residential areas -- my time is up? Okay.

1 In closing I would just like to say that I think
2 that there has been a lot of compromises made around the
3 use of this park and the many competing interests and
4 diverse interests, and I strongly encourage the city of
5 Seattle and the Parks Department to give more
6 consideration to this development and provide a better
7 balance of these different interests. Thank you.

8
9 TESTIMONY OF PETER DAHL

T21

10 My name is a Peter Dahl, and I am a long-time
11 resident of the Viewridge neighborhood. The proposed
12 plan as stated poses a significant environmental impact
13 on the neighborhood in terms of light pollution, traffic,
14 and noise.

15 I want to now just focus on noise and its
16 environmental effects. I have a Ph.D in this area, in
17 the field of acoustics, and I am qualified to talk about
18 this technical issue.

19 The DEIS states that additional users and extended
20 hours result in more frequent park-use noise than might
21 be carried beyond the project site. Operational noise
22 levels would not be high, would be abated somewhat by
23 physical factors, and would not likely be significant in
24 off-site residential areas. Page 1-18.

1
NOI1

25 This is not true. Noise levels produced by 11

1 fields lit until 11 p.m. will be high, will not be
2 abated, and will produce a significant environmental
3 impact on off-site residential areas, particularly the
4 on-site residence areas as we just heard.

5 First, to give real noise numbers, I made noise
6 measurements on February 2nd at the corner of Northeast
7 69th and 57th Avenue, between the hours of 3 p.m. and 4
8 p.m. This value averages 45 dBA. Later I made
9 measurements at the same location between 9 p.m. and 10
10 p.m., and that number was 42 dBA.

11 Now, 45 dBA is a low background noise level that
12 complies with EPA guidelines. This low noise is a great
13 value and a benefit to the health and well-being of the
14 Viewridge neighborhood and the residents of the park.

15 Occasionally, low background noise is not the case,
16 and there is a well-documented record of noise complaints
17 associated with the park activities registered with the
18 city. This record is also evidence of a relationship
19 between park-generated noise and the noise environment of
20 the people living nearby. This relationship has been
21 entirely ignored by the environmental impact document.

22 The usual way to assess community response to noise
23 impact is to conduct a survey at the community.

24 Interviews plus actual measurements before and after the
25 changes have been implemented. The draft statement

1
NOI1
(cont'd)

1 expended zero effort to assess community response to
2 noise impact. The draft impact statement expended zero
3 effort to quantify the noise study.

4 I have done a noise study. Based on traffic
5 estimates in the DEIS, there could be 750 people on the
6 athletic field complex generating spectator and
7 participant vocalizations, such as fan support, coaching
8 noises, celebrations, et cetera. The sound level for a
9 single, excited-like voice is between 60 and 64 dBA at
10 about 10 meters. The total sound level emitted from the
11 sportsfield complex can be expected to be between 89 and
12 93 dBA.

13 Now, people who live along 58th Avenue will
14 experience a noise level between 56 to 61 dBA, based on a
15 nominal range of those fields at about 1400 feet. This
16 is more than 10 dB than those background levels that I
17 reported earlier. Under these conditions, noise levels
18 would no longer comply with EPA guidelines for noise just
19 outside the dwellings, for avoiding sleep disruptions --
20 which is 55 dBA -- and would also be a serious violation
21 of the city's own noise ordinance, which is 47 dBA for
22 nighttime. Importantly, these people would be confronted
23 with this sound level until 11 p.m. every night of the
24 year.

25 In summary, contrary to the conclusions of the

1
NOI1
(cont'd)

1 DEIS, the proposed plan of 11 sportsfields with
2 all-weather surfaces lit until 11 p.m. every night of the
3 year results in a significant environmental impact to
4 local residents. This impact results from an increase in
5 the background noise level for daytime beyond that deemed
6 acceptable by the EPA, the World Health Organization in
7 order to avoid sleep disturbance, and Seattle's own noise
8 ordinance.

1
NOI1
(cont'd)

9 These increased levels coming everyday and during
10 the nighttime period of 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. will have a
11 particularly severe impact on young children and the
12 elderly in terms of sleep disruption and the quality of
13 life in general for all citizens of the neighborhood.
14 Thank you.

15
16 TESTIMONY OF NICOLE SWEDBERG

T22

17 My name is Nicole Swedberg and I live at 6914 57th
18 Avenue Northeast. I am one of the many parents of young
19 children in this neighborhood. I want to talk to you
20 tonight as a parent and as an educator about how the
21 increase in noise level that Dr. Dahl just addressed will
22 translate into an invasive impact on families' evening
23 routines. I am currently doing my doctorate in the area
24 of family literacy.

Duplicate
testimony.
Please
refer to
Comment
Record
I316,
Comments
1-2.

25 I would like to describe for you what bedtime is

1 currently like at my house. Then I am going to describe
2 what this routine would be like if the proposed action is
3 carried out as described by the DEIS.

4 Currently between 7:30 and 8 o'clock every night my
5 husband and I read to our two young children, picture
6 books for our young two-and-a-half-year-old, and chapter
7 books for our older child. Then we put our two children
8 into their quiet bedrooms and they go right to sleep.
9 They sleep for the recommended hours of sleep for young
10 children -- uninterrupted. That's at my house. Now
11 multiply this scenario by several hundred, and you can
12 picture what most families with young children are doing
13 right about the time that the games at Magnuson Park are
14 proposed to be fired up.

15 What I have described to you is not just a sweet
16 little family scenario, but is the recommended technique
17 for parenting, recommended by pediatricians, educators,
18 and educational researchers. Some of the benefits to
19 children of hearing stories read aloud include language
20 development, particularly vocabulary growth and the
21 hearing of complex sentences, experiences with
22 phonetics and letters, background knowledge, conceptual
23 knowledge, imaginative thinking, and most importantly the
24 emotional closeness and security of hearing a story on a
25 parent's lap with no interruptions, no phone, no work, no

1 washing the dishes, just a parent and a child reading
2 together.

3 The benefits of getting a full night of
4 uninterrupted sleep for young children are well known.
5 They include cognitive development, emotional
6 development, and success in school. I can tell you
7 first-hand from teaching kindergarten and first grade
8 that children who are well-rested can settle down, pay
9 attention, and work on task.

10 Now, let's cut to a different scenario, the
11 scenario of 11 ball fields that become active right at
12 the point of this crucial bedtime routine every night of
13 the year. In this scenario we try to read bedtime
14 stories to our children, but we are competing with what
15 amounts to an enormous live TV screen that plays ball
16 games every night. And in this proposed ball field
17 scenario, when we try to put our children down to sleep
18 around 8:30 or 9 o'clock, we are again competing with
19 live-action sports.

20 While we may be able to pull down our blinds to
21 screen out this visual, we will not be able to turn down
22 the volume. In the summer when our windows have to be
23 open because of the heat, the noise will be particularly
24 invasive.

25 While some families in the neighborhood will not

1 see this giant TV screen, we will all be affected by the
2 noise as Viewridge hill acts as an amphitheater,
3 projecting park noise upward. But it will be far worse
4 for the people who are currently living in the park, some
5 of whom you have heard from tonight. Currently there are
6 more than 70 children under age 10 who live in this park.
7 Those children should be asleep by 9 o'clock. For those
8 children, the noise will exceed 90 dB's as Dr. Dahl
9 described. The acceptable level is 45 dB's.

10 In small, dense living communities such as an
11 apartment, dorms, and hospitals there are quiet hours
12 that begin around 8 or 9 o'clock out of respect for the
13 quiet things that many of us do in the evenings. For
14 families with young children, these quiet hours should be
15 a given and should be non-negotiable.

16 The DEIS under discussion has failed to address the
17 issue of children who are missing crucial developmental
18 routines while adults play soccer and baseball. Thank
19 you.

20
21 TESTIMONY OF NANCY KROENING

T23

22 I am Nancy Kroening, 6536 Parkpoint Lane Northeast.
23 I am speaking as an individual. I am supporting Seattle
24 Audubon's comment and those of many others of you.

25 I think this is what an environmental impact

1 statement is supposed to do -- draft -- is let people
2 know, let the whole community know, what the effects are
3 going to be. I think what we're seeing is that this is a
4 two-ton elephant. This is an unacceptable project. The
5 size and scale are just way out of the norm. I think the
6 Parks Department and city council can take this
7 opportunity to cut the fields by at least 50 percent or
8 more and delete the lights, and cutoff the play at dusk,
9 and start the play not much earlier than 10 a.m. if the
10 noise is going to be so great.

11 I am also concerned about the wildlife. I think
12 that the impact will drive the wildlife out. I think
13 people come to Magnuson Park to see it, and I know my
14 husband and I do. In the summertime we use the park at
15 least two or three times a week. We take all of our
16 guests there.

17 The traffic going down 65th is a true problem. We
18 try and ride our bikes down there, we try and walk down
19 there, and everybody comments that it is very, very
20 dangerous.

21 The noise level coming up that drive is pretty
22 amazing. We live close enough to hear the noise, and we
23 walk on the Burke-Gilman Trail. We have heard word for
24 word, note for note, things that have been happening in
25 the park. It really is an amazing funnel there.

1
SEPA32
WDLF13
TRAN14
NOI1

1 I have had trouble seeing the DEIS plan. I don't
2 know if there is a copy at the Northeast Branch Library,
3 but I think there should be.

5
SEPA15

4 I am also interested in the tall trees around the
5 marshes and the lake. I am very happy about the wetlands
6 coming back into the park. They were filled over, and
7 now it's time to uncover them, although I am not sure
8 that drainage water from parking lots is -- I think it
9 should be cleaned. I think wildlife deserves clean water
10 just like we do.

6
S/O2

7
WTR4

11 The affects of the ball fields are just too great
12 for the area. It's just clear that the lights and the
13 traffic and the noise would be a huge problem. The
14 people in the upper levels of our condo units are going
15 to see those lights, and it's like forcing a mini Safeco
16 Field into this quiet neighborhood, except that this is
17 15 fields, not just one.

8
PD11

18 Things have changed since 9-11. We know that
19 bigger is not better and more is not better, and this
20 proposed development is not a good example of what we
21 need to be doing now. We just don't have the money, and
22 we need to be sensitive to each other.

9
S/O4

23 I am especially concerned about those residents in
24 the park. They were very brave to come and testify. And
25 the word "unacceptable" just comes screaming out again.

1 That little baby needs us to stand up for him. He is a
2 very sick child, and I think that the community can stand
3 up against this. Thank you very much.

9
S/O4
(cont'd)

5 TESTIMONY OF SUSAN MESENBRINK

T24

6 My name is Sue Mesenbrink. I live at 7346 58th
7 Avenue Northeast, and I am speaking as an individual.

8 Tonight what I am going to talk about -- and I am
9 going to restrict most of my comments just to traffic
10 issues -- I would like to start out by reading just a
11 couple of items from the DEIS report.

12 As the last speaker commented, this is what this
13 type of study is for, to bring out both the good things
14 and the bad things about any impact that will be given to
15 our neighborhood. I was surprised at what the DEIS
16 report said and more importantly what it did not say. So
17 just to give you a couple of quotes here to start with --
18 and remember my comments are going to be traffic-related.

19 The first quote from the DEIS is, "The project
20 construction activities would cause varying levels of
21 traffic disruption intermittently throughout the
22 construction period."

1
NOI3

23 The next quote they have is, "The construction and
24 demolition activities would create," -- and I have
25 underlined this myself -- "a short-term, intermittent

1 noise on the project site over a construction period
2 expected to last ten years or more." Well, folks, for me
3 ten years is a long time. That's not a short period of
4 time. And my feeling is that this is an undue burden to
5 the local residents and neighbors at the park.

1
NOI3
(cont'd)

6 The next item that is in this study that I am going
7 to quote states that, "Increased traffic to project site
8 primarily from users of sportsfields and including use of
9 wetland habitat complex. Proposed project facilities
10 estimated to generate 3,280 daily trips," and then in
11 parentheses, "(2,260 net new trips at full operation.)"
12 So again, the DEIS has said that that is a three to seven
13 percent increase. Well, folks, I am a banker, and if you
14 have originally a thousand and twenty trips and you
15 increase that to 3,280 trips -- trust me -- you know,
16 we've gotten away with years of telling you that three
17 percent was a good interest rate, but don't believe it.

2
TRAN1

18 No action -- and this was part of the study as
19 well, and if you read the DEIS study it had areas that
20 talked about action and then the proposed action, a
21 lesser action, and then if there is no action at all.
22 Under "No Action" they state, "Traffic from existing
23 sportsfield project site use distributed to intersections
24 would be the same as for the proposed action," and again
25 my underline, "with substantially lower volumes of

1 traffic."

2 Now, the majority of the sportsfield trips would be
3 entering from a site during -- and this is one more quote
4 from the DEIS, and then I am just going to have a few
5 comments of my own -- "The majority of the sportsfield
6 trips would be entering the site during the p.m. peak
7 hour, because this is when games and practices are
8 typically scheduled to begin, with none or few ending
9 during this time."

10 So from a traffic standpoint what we're looking at
11 here is an increase of nearly three hundred percent. Any
12 time that you have an increase in traffic you're going to
13 have an increase in accidents. You're going to have an
14 increase in noise, congestion, frustration for the people
15 that are coming in and out of our neighborhoods, delays.

16 Several people from the Burke-Gilman Trail --
17 they're bike riders that actually commute on the Burke.
18 We are going to have a lot of traffic coming down on 65th
19 and 70th. To me, that is just an accident waiting to
20 happen. Noise levels, increased traffic on Sand Point,
21 65th, 70th, 35th, all the cross streets.

22 The games are going to be scheduled every
23 one-and-a-half to two hours. The traffic is going to be
24 throughout the 11 o'clock hour. We're going to be -- I
25 don't know if any of you live in this area have ever

3
TRAN
NOI1

1 heard the screeching tires down here at Magnuson Park,
2 but just imagine when we start hearing the winning team
3 when they start celebrating.

3
TRAN
NOI1
(cont'd)

4 Crime -- again, crime and litter. Anytime that you
5 have this going on, more traffic, you have more crime and
6 more litter. So thank you again for your time.

4
PSU1

8 TESTIMONY OF THERESA FENTON

T25

9 My name is Theresa Fenton. I live at 7306 56th
10 Avenue Northeast. I am a ten-year resident of Viewridge.

11 I'd like to start primarily about the lights. I am
12 a opposed to the lighted athletic field. I do support
13 almost of all of the comments I heard tonight. I would
14 like to see a reduction in the overall athletic
15 development plan, that specifically tonight I would like
16 to address the lighting.

1
S/O4

17 The DEIS states -- and I quote -- that, "Based on
18 the existing urbanized environment and the limited
19 magnitude expected for the project, the impact of the
20 project on the sky glow evident around the area would
21 likely be insignificant." End of quote.

2
L&G1

22 First of all, the conclusion that the affects on
23 sky glow are not likely to be significant still allows
24 for the possibility that it actually could be
25 significant. There were no measurements taken. There

1 are no data percentages to substantiate the DEIS
2 conclusion. In fact, from the photo of only 12 lamps
3 shown here -- which is 13 times less than is proposed for
4 the shielded conventional lights and 50 times less than
5 proposed for all sportsfield lighting -- it seems
6 intuitively obvious that there will be tremendous impacts
7 on sky glow.

2
L&G1
(cont'd)

8 Despite the DEIS characterization of the project as
9 "limited magnitude," the scope of the lighted athletic
10 fields is unprecedented. Nowhere have 11 contiguous been
11 lit simultaneously. It seems prudent to proceed
12 cautiously and to gather as much data as possible to
13 enable an informed decision rather than relying on
14 opinion. In this age when we can simulate a trip to
15 Mars, it seems we should be able to simulate the
16 cumulative affects of all of these lights.

3
L&G2

17 I disagree with the DEIS characterization of Sand
18 Point Magnuson as a highly urbanized environment. The
19 park is a refuge from the intensity of the city. As you
20 can tell from the photo, there are minimal affects from
21 the lights, and I can testify that on the average night
22 there is little late evening noise except perhaps the
23 frogs on the frog pond.

24 When I say "little affect on the lights," other
25 than those in the lighting demonstration the area

1 surrounding -- you can see that there is not much ambient
2 light in the existing conditions. The proposed expansive
3 installation of artificial lighting and the anticipated
4 noise from the field activities will change the
5 environment completely, changing the view of the moon and
6 stars to something more resembling an industrial park.

3
L&G2
(cont'd)

7 Without data, even the experts cannot reach
8 definitive conclusions. The DEIS frequently uses words
9 like "suggesting" or "appearance" or "might experience."
10 These qualitative conclusions are soft criteria for such
11 important decisions.

4
L&G1

12 Additionally, the conclusions as written seem
13 biased in support of the proposal. The 640,000 watts
14 blazing until 11 p.m. -- the report could just as
15 accurately conclude that the affects are likely to be
16 significant.

5
L&G2
SEPA4

17 Sand Point Magnuson is a peaceful retreat and a bit
18 of urban serenity. Once lost it cannot be retrieved. We
19 should make certain we have data to inform the decisions.
20 In the absence of complete and reliable information, the
21 guidance should be not to proceed.

6
SEPA4

23 TESTIMONY OF AL SKAAR

T26

24 My name is Al Skaar. I live at 7060 56th Avenue
25 Northeast. That's almost directly up the hill from where

1 we are right now.

2 I've got two concerns. The first is the noise that
3 would be generated by the sports complex down here.

4 Right now there are two soccer fields and two baseball
5 diamonds, and anytime of the year when there are
6 activities there we can hear the sounds from the fields,
7 even though our doors and windows are closed. And in the
8 summertime that noise is much more evident.

9 If you consider what that would be like if this
10 complex is completed, it would be over three times that
11 amount of noise. And the duration of the noise would
12 continue until 11 p.m., 365 days a year. So far as I am
13 concerned, this proposal is totally unacceptable.

14 When we bought our home, we chose this neighborhood
15 because of the view primarily and because of the peaceful
16 neighborhood. Our concern now is if this project
17 continues is when there will ever really be any peace
18 during waking hours.

19 I would just like to read this part. "During the
20 sports season in 2001, athletic activities on the fields
21 generated the same types of noise that would be expected
22 with the proposal." That's section 3.6.2.2 Operation,
23 page 3-57. According to the Parks Department Sportsfield
24 Scheduling Office, we currently have two softball fields
25 and two soccer fields. The proposed plan is for 15

1
NOI1

1 sportsfields, more than triple the current number, over a
2 275 percent increase.

3 It is well known that the current level of activity
4 is audible throughout the Viewridge neighborhood. In
5 fact, many neighbors have complained about noise
6 emanating from the park during the day and the night.
7 The noise intensity would significantly increase with 15
8 sportsfields. The proposed plan will also expand
9 nighttime activities with 11 lit fields.

10 The nighttime noise has its own, unique problems.
11 During the day the sounds from those fields are mitigated
12 by neighborhood activity -- people running lawn mowers,
13 if you're in the house the radio is going, or people are
14 watching TV, whatever. People are just generally more
15 active.

16 But in the evening people expects things to quiet
17 down and you expect to have some peace. The level of
18 activity and traffic also drops off. The DEIS just fails
19 to address the difference between noise perception during
20 the day and noise perception during the night, or the
21 amount of noise during the evening hours, like has been
22 brought up earlier.

23 The other thing is with the light. This photo, as
24 has been pointed out several times, has 12 lights versus
25 640 lights if this project goes forward. As it is now,

1
NOI1
(cont'd)

2
L&G2

1 we don't have to wait for the sun to rise at this time of
2 the year to wake up, because we can wake up to the glow
3 of the lights from the commissary on our bedroom ceiling,
4 as happened this morning.

2
L&G2
(cont'd)

5 So anyway, I think that the plan is flawed. It's
6 definitely unbalanced in terms of what's going in there
7 relative to its impact on the environment, and I would
8 just like to see the hole thing curtailed. Thank you.

3
S/O4

10 TESTIMONY OF TOM KELLY

T27

11 My name is Tom Kelly. I am here as an individual
12 tonight. I live at 6053 53rd Avenue Northeast. I do
13 support some previous comments made by Seattle Audubon
14 and many of the others here this evening.

15 First I would like to say I appreciate the amount
16 of effort that went into making the draft EIS, and I will
17 say that many elements of it seem reasonable and
18 accurate. However, this is the time to be critical, and
19 today I am here to argue for changes. I will also likely
20 make additional comments in written form later in more
21 detail.

22 I want to say that the lesser-impact alternative
23 doesn't seem particularly credible to me or useful in
24 evaluating choices. It's too close to the preferred
25 option. The major impacts seem the same or very close to

Duplicate
testimony.
Please refer
to Comment
Record I149,
Comments
1-7.

1 it. I suggest that the lesser-impact alternative be
2 altered to something more intermediate between the
3 no-action alternative and the preferred alternative. To
4 me, this would mean fewer sportsfields. At this point I
5 am not saying I would necessarily favor implementation of
6 such a plan. I am saying that it should be considered as
7 an alternative.

8 Although it may be true that the council has voted
9 on a concept plan for the park including a large number
10 of sportsfields, I don't believe that there has ever been
11 full consideration of the environmental impacts of that
12 and for development of that park or elsewhere in the
13 city, for instance, making people more car dependent.

14 Second, I want to say that by dismissing the park
15 and surrounding area as a heavily urbanized area that
16 already generate considerable glow, the DEIS makes an
17 inaccurate over-generalization. The presence of
18 always-dark Lake Washington adjacent to the site will
19 make sky glow far more apparent than it would be in other
20 areas.

21 The view of the night sky, the moon, the stars, or
22 meteors from this part of the city will be taken away
23 from many citizens by the sky glow. The beautiful view
24 over the lake at night, available to all who walk nearby
25 streets or who crest over Viewridge while driving, will

1 be diminished.

2 I also think that the EIS should be more specific
3 about measures to reduce sky glow should there be
4 sportsfields lighting, besides the use of dark,
5 non-reflective surfaces. This should include trying to
6 match the spectrum of lights with the light absorbency
7 characteristics with the field surface for maximum
8 absorption.

9 Third, I want to say that the plan understates the
10 impact of sportsfield lighting on energy consumption by
11 focusing on average loads over a year instead of focusing
12 on the increase in peak demand. Although the portion of
13 Seattle's peak load consumed by the lighting will be low,
14 the affect on environmental and economic cost will be
15 greater than one would expect based on load averaged over
16 the year. That's because peak load power is the most
17 expensive power. It's the type of power that requires
18 building new power plants. This cost is likely to be
19 borne by many rate payers, not just those who use the
20 sportsfields.

21 Fourth, I would like to see the environmental
22 impact statement be more specific about the impacts of
23 having a 12-foot width for the west side and south side
24 of the cross-country trail loop. I would prefer to see
25 alternative 9- or 8-foot widths considered. The

1 cross-park trail itself, as opposed to the cross-country
2 trial, only has a 9-foot width. Other nearby comparable
3 urban trails are only 8 feet wide. The Burke-Gilman
4 trail supports a variety of traffic including runners and
5 heavy game-day traffic, and are wide enough for a service
6 vehicle.

7 Having a segment of the cross-country trail so wide
8 will make it unpleasant. It will be like walking a
9 logging road instead of walking down a trail. It also
10 will invite conflicting uses and will consume
11 approximately one-third of an acre of additional land
12 that could be used for vegetation.

13 I think it's far better to ban bikes from this
14 segment and make it a more pleasant, serene place for
15 pedestrian traffic, whether they're runners or walkers.
16 There are parallel routes that will work much better for
17 bicycle transportation.

18
19 TESTIMONY OF KARLY COPE

T28

20 I just want to read something from the DEIS. The
21 DEIS states that virtually all of the single-family
22 residential area west of Sand Point Way is located west
23 of the Burke-Gilman Trail and above elevation 125 feet,
24 which was spoken about before, and would have limited or
25 no exposure to direct glare from the sportsfield lights.

1
L&G2

1 During the lighting demonstration, residents were
2 able to witness -- there were a lot of residents at my
3 house -- significant glare from their living rooms and
4 bedrooms. What will it be like when we jump from a
5 demonstration of three light poles with four lights each
6 -- 12 lights -- to 640 luminaries of a thousand watts
7 each?

8 People have mentioned before how are we going to go
9 to sleep, how are we going to relax? If you take a
10 photograph from Magnuson Park -- I'm down there
11 frequently -- and look up at the hillside, you see tons
12 of decks. I don't know how the DEIS can say that the
13 lights cannot be seen from these decks, from these
14 houses. If you look, there are just decks and windows
15 showing.

16 So this will be magnified by a huge amount and it
17 won't just go up to 58th. It will go all the way up to
18 50th. In fact, the night of the demonstration I drove my
19 car all the way up 70th to 50th, and I drove all around
20 there. If you come over the hillside at night, you know
21 the moon is huge at the top of the hill. As you go down
22 towards 58th -- unfortunately on my street -- the moon is
23 smaller. So sometimes I go up there to see this huge
24 moon.

25 I don't know of a technical reason why that

1
L&G2
(cont'd)

1 happens, but it was the same with the lights. As you got
2 to the top of 50th, these lights were halogens -- they
3 were huge. So the DEIS is totally inaccurate in that
4 statement.

5 Also, the baseball lights which are on the field
6 facing the hill are the brightest, most unshielded
7 lights. Of course the sports people wanted them oriented
8 that way because of the wind and the sun. Well, you
9 know, we would like to not have them shining directly
10 into -- the most glaring lights would be shining directly
11 into our houses.

12 Then also we're concerned about the wildlife, the
13 foraging behavior, the breeding behavior, all sorts of
14 behavior by the wildlife, the birds, all those things.
15 But what we sometimes forget or maybe we're embarrassed
16 to say is that we're animals also. Light affects us.
17 Noise affects us. People can't sleep. Children can't
18 sleep, as Nicole was saying.

19 Now, I am in the tutoring business. Kids need a
20 lot of sleep. We need a lot of sleep. There are tons of
21 elderly in this neighborhood in the condos, and the kids
22 who I have worked with -- some down at Sand Point housing
23 -- need rest. I think it's forgotten that we will suffer
24 as human beings in this Safeco Field-like environment,
25 and it will be like an industrial area.

1
L&G2
(cont'd)

2
WDLF1

3
L&G2

1 The pristine view -- I have clients that come to my
2 house and say, "Oh, but that view when you come over the
3 hill is just gorgeous. It's so pristine." That will be
4 gone. The moon that is so gorgeous in our area will be
5 gone.

4
AES1

6 We urge you not to light these fields. It's bad
7 for all animals that are in the surrounding area,
8 including the humans.

5
S/O4

10 TESTIMONY OF DIANA RUSSELL

T29

11 Hi. I am Diana Russell. I live at 7221 56th
12 Avenue Northeast. It's kind of unfortunate that I'm just
13 after Karly and we did not coordinate this, but I have
14 many of the same points that she had.

Duplicate
testimony.
Please refer
to Comment
Record I266,
Comments
1-7.

15 However, I am going to start with letting you know
16 that I am a former wildlife biologist for the US Forest
17 Service. I am really quite concerned that the draft
18 environmental impact statement merely states some of the
19 impacts from the proposed athletic field lighting to both
20 migratory birds, day and night cycles of feeding and
21 breeding, and behaviors of some species.

22 The glare from the two largest baseball fields will
23 reach into the wetlands. There is no adequate solution
24 proposed in the draft environmental impact statement for
25 mitigating the adverse affects of the reflective light

1 and glare on our valuable wildlife resource at Magnuson
2 Park.

3 As Karly stated from the draft environmental impact
4 statement, the statement about "virtually all of the
5 single-family residential area west of Sand Point Way is
6 located west of the Burke-Gilman Trail and above 125 feet
7 and would have limited or no exposure to direct glare
8 from the sportsfield lights." This is just not true. At
9 the most recent lighting demonstration I was appalled by
10 the intensity of the lights I saw from my home on 56th
11 Ave. Northeast, a few doors from where that picture was
12 taken. And that picture barely describes what I saw.

13 My home is at the top of the hill and well-above
14 125 feet. Also during this demonstration -- and I do
15 know Karly was out doing this too -- I went to the top of
16 the next hill at 50th. And the light was still very,
17 very intense.

18 So again we ask the question, what would it be like
19 if we didn't just have a three pole demonstration but the
20 full 80 poles with all the lights on them? Well, I think
21 answer is clear. We and our children will not be able to
22 sleep in bedrooms exposed to intense glow and the
23 accompanying noise. The nighttime noise and ultrabright
24 lights year round will bring a continuous, carnival
25 quality to our homes and our neighborhood. The large

1 number of proposed athletic fields and lighting is just
2 plain unfair for a community to absorb, and our homes,
3 our gardens, our streets, our bedrooms, and our valuable
4 wildlife resource at the park.

5 The impact statement has failed to consider
6 off-site alternatives, giving the impression that these
7 decisions have already been made. We need to look at a
8 more even distribution of the athletic fields in the
9 city, spreading the benefits as well as the harm. Even
10 the lesser alternatives stated propose more lighted
11 athletic fields than anywhere in the city. And a
12 no-additional-athletic-field-and-no-additional-lighting
13 alternative must be seriously considered. The cumulative
14 impact of these and other activities of the park have
15 never been addressed. Thank you.

16
17 TESTIMONY OF CHERYL WELCH

T30

18 Hi. My name is Cheryl Welch, and I live on 58th
19 Avenue Northeast. I am here to give my input on the
20 impact of the lights.

21 During the demonstration a few months ago, I was
22 having dinner with my family -- our dining room faces the
23 park -- and it was like having car headlights shine right
24 into our dining room. My husband had to get up and
25 actually close one of the blinds due to the light shining

1
L&G2

1 into our home.

2 My concern is -- that was just with the three poles
3 mentioned. With over -- I believe it was 80 lighted
4 poles, I can't imagine what the impact will be to the
5 quality of our neighborhood as well as the environment
6 around us. So I just wanted to give you my feedback on
7 the lights and say that this statement -- the DEIS
8 statement -- states virtually all of the single-family
9 residential area west of Sand Point Way is located west
10 of the Burke-Gilman Trail and above elevation of 125 feet
11 and would have limited or no exposure to direct glare via
12 the sportsfield lights. That is false because it does
13 have a direct impact on us. Thank you.

1
L&G2
(cont'd)

14
15 TESTIMONY OF SARA KUPER

T31

16 My name is Sara Kuper. I live at 7733 58th Avenue
17 Northeast. I am going to thank all the people who have
18 taken the time and effort to do the research that is
19 necessary to show the lack of some of the research was in
20 the report that was given to us or made public. I am
21 really impressed by the professionals and the people who
22 did the very careful studies that they did, and wondering
23 why that wasn't done by the DEIS.

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SEPA4

24 I also want to say that my husband comes from
25 Brooklyn, New York. He comes from an area that about 30

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S/O4

1 years ago was as pristine and as beautiful as Magnuson
2 Park. And the reason he is not here tonight is because
3 he is convinced that the city will do what the city will
4 do. I am here because I cannot believe that Seattle
5 would give in to the very sad state of what happened to
6 his neighborhood in Brooklyn, where the sewage and the
7 pollution and the quality of life has now totally -- it's
8 just totally the opposite of what it was when he grew up.

9 So I am hoping that the city will listen to us and
10 will realize that the jewel that we have in Magnuson Park
11 cannot be destroyed.

2
S/04
(cont'd)

12
13 TESTIMONY OF SHARON LEE

T32

14 Hi. I am Sharon Lee, and I live at 6314 20th
15 Avenue Northeast. I am the director of the Low Income
16 Housing Institute, and we manage the family housing,
17 transitional housing, as well as Santos Place which is
18 housing for men and women.

19 I was actually quite surprised when I first got
20 this newspaper-like brochure that, when you look at it,
21 there is no identification of any of the housing. There
22 are six buildings right across the street where people
23 live year round, all the time, including -- I think you
24 have heard some of the residents who spoke earlier --
25 three homes for teen mothers, homeless youth, housing for

1
SEPA4

1 people who are trying to get their life back together.

2 I think the DEIS makes almost no mention of the
3 fact that there are over 150 people living directly
4 facing the ball field and that the construction is going
5 to be like a hundred feet way. Let alone the people who
6 live further away, we have people living directly across
7 the street immediate to all this.

8 We are very, very concerned. We are opposed to the
9 lighting. We are opposed to the ten-year construction
10 schedule. We are opposed to the 900 cars.

11 I think the lesser alternative is a false
12 alternative. There ought to be a lesser, lesser, lesser
13 alternative. I don't know who they're fooling. The
14 housing is barely mentioned that we have people living
15 there year round all the time, and these are people who
16 are at risk, people who -- I think the community is doing
17 a tremendous favor by providing a supportive environment.

18 I mean, it was because of the re-use plan that said
19 we would have transitional housing for homeless families
20 and individuals that the city was able to get significant
21 parts of the land transferred for free. Here we are
22 imposing a significant hardship that people are going to
23 be living like they're in a ball field. They'll be
24 living like they're in a fish bowl. I think this is not
25 what we had intended by setting up a whole residential

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SEPA4
(cont'd)

2
S/O4

3
SEPA2

4
SEPA12

1 zone for, I think, for people to live.

2 There is not enough of a buffer. I think the
3 measures are extreme. So I really want to applaud the
4 people who are here opposing this drastic action. Thank
5 you.

4
SEPA12
(cont'd)

7 TESTIMONY OF JEAN ALEXANDER

T33

8 My name is Jean Alexander and I live in the
9 Viewridge neighborhood at 6656 57th Northeast. I am here
10 because I am deeply concerned about the impact lighted
11 playing fields at Sand Point would have on the
12 neighborhood and the wildlife in the park.

13 The environmental impact statement recognizes that
14 the issue of lighting is unresolved and that there is
15 potential for significant negative impact, but then goes
16 on to downplay the glare spillage and sky glow, although
17 it does admit that we will certainly see the lights.

1
L&G2

18 Those of us who saw the lighting demonstration from
19 our homes know that the significant negative impact is
20 all too real. The two brightest lights were shockingly
21 bright, and I understand that we're going to be asked to
22 look at 80 of them on a regular basis, and no doubt
23 continue to pay high property taxes for the privilege of
24 having this ravaged view.

25 The effect of the lighting on the wildlife in the

2
WDLF

1 park is equally troubling. The environmental impact
2 statement acknowledges potential impact of uncertain
3 magnitude on wildlife. Unfortunately for the wildlife
4 and for us, by the time the true impact is known it will
5 be too late to save this valuable asset. Playing fields
6 are important resources too, but they can be created in
7 many locations, while this area of natural beauty is a
8 rare gift for the people of Seattle and that must be
9 handled with care because it will not come again.

2
WDLF2
(cont'd)

11 TESTIMONY OF ANNE LESTER

T34

12 My name is Anne Lester. I live at 8001 Sand Point
13 Way, just down the road a piece. And I do live in the
14 neighborhood, but I am really here speaking as a member
15 of the board of the Sand Point Community Housing
16 Association, and I want to talk also about the impact,
17 particularly that the lighting of the sportsfields will
18 have on the residents of our programs here at Sand Point.

19 Many others have spoken about the impact the lights
20 will have on the Viewridge neighborhood, and I agree with
21 all of those powerful arguments. But I want to point
22 out, however, that our residents in the housing are right
23 here in the park, a quarter to a half a mile closer than
24 the Viewridge hillside. And these folks literally will
25 be living in the midst of these lights. From what I can

1
L&G2

1 glean from the DEIS, they are treated as barely more than
2 footnotes in this whole process, which I find really
3 shocking.

4 I try to imagine what it would be like to have
5 floodlights pouring into their living rooms and bedrooms,
6 wiping out nighttime everyday, 365 days a year, until 11
7 o'clock at night. I picture a huge brightly lighted
8 parking lot with 867 spaces within a stone's throw of
9 their homes. The noise and traffic when those cars rev
10 up to leave at the end of the practices and the games,
11 year round until 11 o'clock, will -- by any definition --
12 be extremely disruptive to the safe and secure
13 environment we have worked so long and hard to achieve
14 for our residents.

15 I imagine them putting their children to bed -- and
16 I think we have over 70 children, don't we, Sharon?
17 Something like that? -- in an environment that I think
18 others have said is closer to the tone of Safeco Field
19 than the beautiful park we have today. These residents
20 are our neighbors and our fellow citizens, and attention
21 needs to be paid to them.

22 In my opinion the draft DEIS minimizes the affects
23 on the very real people who live here to a degree that
24 defies logic, common sense, and reality. Thank you.

1
L&G2
(cont'd)

TESTIMONY OF ALLISON BOELTER

My name is Allison Boelter, and I live 7830 56th Place Northeast. I am sure I am repeating many statements, but the more the better.

Our experience in the lighting experiment was horrible. The lights are so incredibly bright you can't even look at them. We have two school-age children, and our bedrooms, living room, and porch all face east. We will have to get new and more substantial window coverings to sleep, much less enjoy our living room at night. Some of my family are up already when there are events down at Sand Point until the events are over. If there is cheering at events, they again won't sleep until the events are over.

My husband is from Chicago, and he says Chicago only allows high-intensity lighting two nights per week, and my understanding is that it is on lower poles. They're big sports fans too, but the needs of a residential community have been considered.

We want to oppose the lights strongly and any large number of night sports. I don't see why anyone needs to be obliged or wish to play sports that late.

TESTIMONY OF JUDY SHEPHERD

I am Judy Shepherd from 1802 Northeast Ravenna

1
L&G22
SEPA3

S/O4

1 Boulevard, so I am a resident of the University Park
2 neighborhood, not of the nearby neighborhood here.

3 My interest in the Magnuson Park project and
4 reading the DEIS is mostly as a biologist looking at the
5 wetlands, and I'll make specific comments in writing
6 about that.

7 I mostly wanted to respond -- and these are not
8 well-honed comments now at all -- to what I am seeing
9 happening here. I have worked on several projects in my
10 neighborhood -- Ravenna Park and also Greenlake -- where
11 I have been very involved with the DEIS process and the
12 final process, and spent 20 to 40 hours a week trying to
13 get research done to look at issues. I am really pleased
14 to see everybody working together. That's the whole
15 purpose of the DEIS, is to flush out what are the
16 problems and really get people to think about it, and
17 then start working together.

18 But what I am really struck by -- and I want to
19 share this experience that I have -- was that I met
20 people I never would have met as a result of that
21 process, and I am seeing that here. I see what appears
22 to be a lot more interaction between the residents up the
23 hill and those who are living nearby. I encourage you to
24 really keep working together, not just to get through
25 this small piece, but think about it for the whole future

1 of this park development.

2 When they talk about ten years of construction,
3 it's really trying to phase -- "You know, we don't have a
4 lot of money to go all the way straight through." So
5 it's not going to be continuous, but in any case, you'll
6 have a long time to keep working together and come up
7 with common ground and come up with good and better
8 solutions than have been posed. It's an exciting process
9 and I think you'll enjoy it, so keep at it.

10 Part of my feeling about this is the way I use
11 Magnuson Park has been as parent of young kids with
12 sportsfields, and then now as a middle-aged person with
13 bicycles, and hopefully by next year as grandparent
14 bringing back kids. But mostly I'm excited to have all
15 kinds of people in it, and all kind of people working
16 together doing different things. And yet I would say
17 everyone is there to enjoy the environment.

18 This needs to be done in away that meets the needs
19 of people living nearby, but also the people who live on
20 the property and come there and use it. So keep at it,
21 all of you, including the city council. Thank you.

22
23 TESTIMONY OF BILL MURRAY

T37

24 I just thought we needed a little atmosphere. Bill
25 Murray, 7322 -- I mean, that's what it should be. 5422

1 73rd.

2 I am an advertizing and commercial photographer and
3 film maker. Light and sound are everything. Sure, we've
4 got actors and sets and design, and all of those things
5 are absolutely essential to a film for a movie, and we
6 pay a lot more attention to them in a movie because we're
7 paying \$8 and \$9 -- I pay attention to \$8 or \$9 -- and
8 light and sound define our environment.

9 This is only a 500 watt light. I am sure that you
10 have been irritated by a neighbor with a bright light on
11 the outside of their garage or something shining in your
12 window. But the people that bought these properties pay
13 a huge amount of extra money over other places for the
14 quiet, for the view of the lake, and that is in danger of
15 being extremely, radically changed.

16 Our environment is everything. Seattle is known
17 for its friendliness toward people, and I think it's very
18 important that we remember that this is the Emerald City,
19 not the Playground City. I love sports as well and I
20 think it's a super-good healthy thing, but I don't think
21 we need this much lighting. I'll leave this on if you
22 like.

23
24 TESTIMONY OF ERIC STUVEY

25 Tough act to follow. My name is Eric Stuvey. My

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SEPA6

2
S/O4

T38

1 address is 6558 55th Avenue Northeast, so I live about
2 halfway up the hill. I would like to make three points,
3 and I hope I can remember them all.

4 There have been comments about why didn't the DEIS
5 statement reflect some of these concerns that seem
6 obvious to us. I think one possibility is that they
7 didn't take into account is that this area, the Viewridge
8 area, coming into Sand Point and Magnuson Park is the
9 shape of a natural amphitheater. So just as in the Roman
10 amphitheaters it's very easy to hear anyone speaking in
11 little more than a whisper.

12 We can hear everything going on down here at the
13 park. I like to go out for walks in the evening at this
14 time of night, and especially during the summertime when
15 you come up and over the hill -- as other people have
16 mentioned -- on 70th street when you come up and over
17 50th coming down towards the park, it's beautiful to hear
18 the crickets. The crickets that are down here can be
19 heard perfectly well from up at the top of the hill.
20 They'll never be heard again once the lights turn on.

21 Second thing is that if you came in the evening
22 like about 45 minutes ago you would have noticed what a
23 beautiful night it was. The moon is just wonderful.
24 That will be gone, absolutely gone. They call sky glow,
25 but it's light pollution.

1
NOI1

2
L&G2

1 The third thing is -- I just read today yet another
2 article in the paper, the university paper, about the
3 dangers of sleep deprivation. I don't think we as
4 citizens in Seattle should be encouraging people to lose
5 even more sleep by playing their sports until 11 o'clock
6 at night. It's time to go to bed.

3
S/O4

8 TESTIMONY OF STEPHAN LUNDGREN

T39

9 My name is Stephan Lundgren. I am the president of
10 the Seattle Community Council Federation. I have a
11 letter which is authorized by the Community Council
12 Federation dealing with the joint athletic facilities
13 development program. It will be submitted for the record
14 that deals with the lighting specifically.

15 I would like to preface my statement, however, by
16 just mentioning my personal concerns. I live in Ballard.
17 I am the past District Council Chair for the Ballard
18 District Council. I am currently a steward for the new
19 Ballard Commons project in the center of Ballard, which
20 we're going to develop. I am also living adjacent to
21 Golden Gardens Park, another regional park facility which
22 has had a number of improvements and additional uses
23 inserted into it, and we expect more.

24 I grew up in a rural area, Bainbridge Island, and I
25 am very sensitive to how beautiful it is in the northwest

1 sky with a minimum of lighting. As you have seen
2 fluorescent lighting creep into the Northwest I am sure
3 you had some thoughts about what has happened to the
4 quality of life here.

5 Recently -- actually last fall -- I helped approve
6 a significant contribution of city funds in a large fund
7 award to the Community Center Gardens. This is done
8 through the neighborhood matching fund. I notice that
9 the Community Center Gardens are located just north of
10 some of the proposed areas there. I found that from
11 P-patchers and just hanging in some of the garden spaces
12 that have been developed what a wonderful contemplative
13 area they can be.

14 I am hoping the impact of the lighting for the
15 sportsfields immediately adjacent to this, along with the
16 off-leash area, will be thought through very carefully as
17 far as their potential impacts for the facility, which
18 we're trying to invent in and develop with a degree of
19 civility and grace.

20 The recommendation that we like to make as far as
21 the Joint Athletic Development Program is that parks hold
22 highly that neighbors are protected from lights and
23 development fields. We further recommend no further ball
24 field development or passage of the 2001-2002 Joint
25 Athletic Facilities Development Program until neighbors'

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L&G3

2
SEPA17

1 needs are met.

2 I have heard some of the comments and discussed
3 them with other people about the concerns of the
4 residents in the area. I am hoping that parks and any
5 other administrators of this facility will work with the
6 largest extent possible of the surrounding communities,
7 those who will be residents on this facility, and the
8 rest of us who will be looking for some grace and
9 civility in enjoying this regional and city treasure. I
10 will submitting these comments for the record.

11 I am also concerned that precedents that are
12 created at Sand Point may be extended to some of the
13 other regional parks and facilities in Seattle. Having
14 some in my neighborhood immediately, I view this as kind
15 of a test case and I hope that we will be very careful in
16 what we do here.

17 I have heard throughout the city concerns about
18 others who are immediately adjacent to park facilities
19 about the increase in lighting impacts, and it's not just
20 the lighting. It's use impact, too. When you're
21 adjacent to a city facility that's in use until 11
22 o'clock at night, it starts getting difficult to get home
23 to your neighborhood.

24 I operate a community center in Sunset Hill. We
25 turn off the lights and we turn off the sound at 10

1 o'clock and shut down for the night. I think that's good
2 neighborhood policy. Sorry we can't use it more, but we
3 have to live with ourselves. So tread lightly here and
4 lightly on our eyes as well. Thank you very much.

TESTIMONY OF ALAN CARPENTER

T40

7 Good evening. My name is Alan Carpenter and I used
8 to write EIS's. I have expertise in noise and glare,
9 light, air pollution, and I live right across the street,
10 not 125 feet up. This will impact us.

Duplicate
testimony.
Please refer
to Comment
Record I51,
Comments
1-4.

11 I want to make four points. The first one is the
12 do-nothing alternative allows for daylight use of the
13 play fields, protects the wetlands, and minimizes impact
14 on the community. How they selected a preferred
15 alternative which is not do-nothing, I do not know. It
16 fatally flaws this document. It serves everyone's needs
17 not to put lights up. The sportsfields are still usable,
18 the neighborhood is not impacted, and the wetland is not
19 impacted. That's the preferred alternative.

20 Secondly, the Department of Parks does not have any
21 authority to promulgate a light standard of any kind.
22 That is the city council's job, just like they promulgate
23 noise ordinances. So where they got a half a foot
24 candle, I do not know, but they have no authority to do
25 it. So, whether it impacts my window to have a foot

1 candle out of it, I don't know. But I have had no input
2 to the process of promulgating this supposed standard.
3 It is bogus, it is fake, it is without authority.

4 Thirdly, it says 775 kilowatts is only one
5 one-hundredth of the city's use. I don't know where they
6 got that number. It's probably true, but can I tell you
7 that's enough to light 80 homes minimally. And that's a
8 whole bunch of power.

9 Finally, the hours of operation will surely violate
10 Seattle's noise ordinance, but as a noise modeler and
11 someone who quantitatively does this work -- or used to
12 -- I can't figure out how to model it because there is no
13 information given. I used to do this. I don't now. I
14 teach school, and I go to bed at 9 o'clock, and I need my
15 sleep. I live across the street.

16
17 TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL MARTIN

T41

18 My name is Michael Martin. I live at 7317 56th
19 Avenue Northeast. My comments segue very nicely right
20 here. By the way, I took that photo. That was taken on
21 a rainy night, so you can imagine it was significantly
22 obscured by the rain and yet you can see what it looks
23 like. I live at 56th, so I am pretty far up the hill,
24 not that close.

25 After having done public speaking for 20 years I

1 know that I can get carried away, so I am going to read
2 this script here.

3 As a husband and wife -- I am speaking on behalf of
4 myself and my wife, who is here somewhere -- as a husband
5 and wife with -- and I am the husband -- with two small
6 children living on the Viewridge hill, with a full and
7 nearby view of Magnuson Park and the proposed playfields,
8 we feel that we will be just about as impacted as anyone
9 by this project. That was before I heard the testimony
10 by the representatives of the folks who live here, who I
11 now realize I hadn't even thought about. They're going
12 to be impacted far more than I am.

13 In the limited time available, we have basically
14 three points to make. Number one, the DEIS is an insult
15 to the public's intelligence because of the skew of its
16 presentation.

17 My wife and I both have graduate degrees in public
18 health. We both went through the school of public health
19 here. She is a physician as well, and I am a professor
20 of oral medicine and epidemiology at the U. The point of
21 that is that we've both read and written many detailed
22 scientific reports over the years.

23 The most readily seen example in the EIS statement
24 of the insult is in the table entitled "Overview: EIS
25 Alternatives." In evaluating the quality of the

1
SEPA4

1 information presented and the attention directed toward
2 the various alternatives, you might use a variety of
3 approaches. One approach might be simply to do a word
4 count. If you look at the column of wording for the
5 so-called proposed action, there must be ten times as
6 many words just in that column as in the other two
7 columns combined. A fair evaluation -- and I know
8 because I've had to do this kind of thing, although I
9 haven't done EIS's -- would give as much detailed
10 attention to the other columns as well.

11 As the second example, little or no follow-up
12 information is presented. EIS's are supposed to be
13 scientifically and evidence-based. There is scant
14 evidence that this has taken place. If in fact such an
15 approach was taken, why was this information not provided
16 in the EIS? An example of the inadequacy of the
17 investigation as quoted from the table is, "Overall
18 increase" -- and this is in the proposed action --
19 "Overall increase in number and species diversity
20 expected for birds, but changes variable depending on
21 habitat needs." This is classic double-speak which says
22 exactly nothing substantive.

23 In the world of academia, this would not, so to
24 speak, pass peer review. And the EIS is replete with
25 examples just like this, which calls the entire report

1
SEPA4
(cont'd)

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SEPA4

1 into question. I have friends that write EIS's. I
2 respect what they do. But something happened here,
3 folks.

2
SEPA4
(cont'd)

4 Second point is that we believe that the lighted
5 playfield needs of this area -- being Seattle/King County
6 -- should be more fairly met in many other ways than the
7 so-called proposed action.

3
SEPA1
SEPA3

8 As parents of two small children and as evening and
9 weekend athletes ourselves, we value public playgrounds
10 and playfields. Lighted playfields are important, but
11 should they be concentrated into an area like this as
12 proposed for Magnuson Park, we think not. Why not spread
13 that lighting more widely over the city to make
14 opportunities for play more equitably available? And
15 under no circumstances should the lights be left on any
16 later than -- with all due respect to the people who are
17 suggesting 10 or later -- 8:30 or 9.

4
SEPA3

18 Although this may not seem evident, this is a
19 public health issue. Where there are lighted fields
20 there will be noise. We already hear the noise from the
21 occasional activities at Magnuson field so loudly that
22 our children have a difficult time sleeping when this is
23 going on. Small children need their sleep, and if I am
24 not going to be grumpy, so do I.

5
NOI1

25 Lastly, nighttime light pollution is already

6
L&G2

1 epidemic in the whole country and in this area in
2 particular. Regardless of the intent of the developers
3 to utilize the lights with the least spill, there will be
4 substantial light spill and light pollution from this
5 project.

6 Anyone, any scientist, any lay person who has
7 investigated the issue of light pollution knows that we
8 are just now beginning to understand the environmental
9 and direct human health consequences of light pollution.
10 This is a young science and the knowledge base is very
11 small.

12 What we do know is that the impact is generally
13 quite negative and any assessment of a potential impact
14 of this project using today's methods has to be
15 considered as an understatement of what we will
16 eventually learn to be the final impact.

17 In addition to the concerns listed above, as a
18 family, we are concerned about the impacts of increased
19 traffic, increased noise, and on property values. And I
20 thank whoever put this thing together for letting me have
21 a chance to talk.

22
23 * * * * *

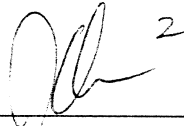
24 (The public hearing was concluded at 7:30 p.m.)
25

6
L&G2
(cont'd)

AFFIDAVIT

IN RE: Sand Point Magnuson Park
Drainage, Wetland/Habitat Complex,
Sportsfields/Courts Project
Public Hearing
February 4, 2002, Seattle, Washington

I, Jennifer A. Clark, do hereby certify that the
foregoing transcript is true and accurate as produced
from the public hearing held on February 4, 2002, in
Seattle, Washington.



Jennifer A. Clark

Certified Court Reporter

CCR No. CLARKJA272D7

COPY

1
2 SAND POINT-MAGNUSON PARK
3 DEIS HEARING
4 TRANSCRIPT OF ONE-ON-ONE TESTIMONY
5
6
7
8
9

10
11
12 February 4, 2002

13 4:30 p.m.

14 Sand Point-Magnuson Park
15 7400 Sand Point Way Northeast
16 Seattle, Washington
17

18 **COPY**
19
20
21

22 Catherine A. Decker, C.C.R.

23 Court Reporter
24
25

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T46	Kate Lloyd 4303 NE 35th Seattle, Washington 98115	12
T47	Joyce Teshima 6959 56th Ave. NE Seattle, Washington 98115	15
T48	Justine Barton 6657 58th Ave. NE Seattle, Washington 98115	16
T49	Gwen Arp 7117 58th Ave. NE Seattle, Washington 98115	18
T50	Kim Wells 6554 51st Ave. NE Seattle, Washington 98115	19
T51	Mark Lodge 7306 56th Ave. NE Seattle, Washington 98115	20

3

22

23

24

24

JANE STEVENS

T42

1 I'm Jane Stevens. View Ridge and Magnuson Park
2 remind me of a Greek theater. From View Ridge one can
3 see and hear beautifully, maybe too well, what is going
4 on at the park. What concerns me the very most are two
5 of the baseball fields which are to be lighted by
6 "shielded conventional lighting." Good-bye night sky.
7

8 What this means is that the outfield lights from
9 two fields will shine directly into the hillside homes
10 of View Ridge residents. We will see the lights from
11 our decks, our living rooms and bedrooms. According to
12 the plan, these lights will be shining towards us until
13 11:00 every night. The DEIS does no include a lesser
14 alternative to reduce the impact of this lighting. I
15 think this is an unconscionable plan of the Seattle
16 Parks Department. Thank you.
17

SUSAN SCHULKIN

T43

18
19
20 My name is Susan Schulkin and I'm responding to the
21 DEIS for sports field lighting at Sand Point. I live
22 just a few blocks up the hill at the corner of 56th
23 Northeast and Northeast 73rd street. There are a few
24
25

1
NOI12
L&G23
SEPA2

1 points I would like to make today.

2 First, the impact of lighting. We bought our home
3 in View Ridge seven years ago because we loved the views
4 from our living room, dining room, and kitchen -- not
5 just the Cascades and Lake Washington, but the twinkling
6 lights of Kirkland at night too. The addition of 11 new
7 sports fields potentially lighted until 11:00 p.m. will
8 significantly impact our after-dusk views. Instead of
9 enjoying twinkling lights, our nighttime view will be
10 dominated by brightly lit AstroTurf.

11 Second, the impact of sound and impact on wildlife.
12 At present our family enjoys being together outside most
13 evenings after dark. Aside from occasional passing
14 cars, it is usually very quiet on our street. Thanks to
15 the natural amphitheater effect of View Ridge, we can
16 now hear the sound of frogs croaking from our back yard.
17 That's right, the sound carries from the frog pond right
18 up the hill six blocks or so to our backyard. We are
19 very concerned about the new nighttime noises from 11
20 lighted sports fields, concerned about how noisy it will
21 be in our bedrooms and how that will impact our sleep,
22 but also concerned about the wildlife at Sand Point and
23 how the noise from the new nighttime activity at Sand
24 Point will affect it.

25 Please reconsider permitting the quiet neighborhood

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L&G2
AES1

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NOI1

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WDLF1

1 we live in to be so severely impacted by 11 lighted
2 sports fields at Sand Point. Thank you.

5 BONNIE MILLER

T44

7 My name is Bonnie Miller. I live at 6057 Ann Arbor
8 Avenue Northeast, Seattle 98115. Thank you for taking
9 my comments on the draft EIS for the wetlands sports
10 fields drainage complex.

11 My first comment is that the difference between the
12 preferred alternative and the lesser alternative was too
13 small. In fact, the parking capacity for the lesser is
14 1,053 spaces versus 991 spaces in the preferred
15 alternative.

16 Another issue not addressed by the draft EIS is not
17 only the lighting, the affect on the surrounding
18 community, the wildlife, the people who live in the
19 housing project, but the cost of energy. We have been
20 asked in Seattle to use fluorescent bulbs and turn off
21 lights. This is turning on a lot of lights.

22 I also question the methodology used to determine
23 noise from activities on the ball fields. As I
24 understand it, it was done by someone on Sand Point Way
25 and not actually someone in the theater seats of the

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SEPA2

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ENR1

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NOI1

1 amphitheater to the west.

2 I'm very concerned about the wildlife habitat.
3 When the original design was presented to the Parks
4 Board, the Parks Board accepted it even though the
5 sports contingent had drawn in more fields so that it
6 intruded upon the wetlands area. At the time, we were
7 assured that there were extra acres that went between
8 fields that were considered habitat; however, lights and
9 habitat seem to be opposed.

10 I'm also concerned that the draft EIS does not
11 address large trees. We need those for perching
12 raptors.

13 Another main concern is the traffic. I understand
14 that even though there is much increase in the number of
15 people who will be coming to the park, the percentage of
16 increase is surprisingly small. I understand the draft
17 EIS addresses only the sports fields' drainage and
18 wetlands, but we have to remember that there's going to
19 be a new community garden, a new off-leash area. We now
20 have a new program director for activities at the
21 community center. We have Building 346 which is going
22 to undergo renovation for more programs.

23 I don't believe traffic has been addressed
24 seriously. Whether or not this can be addressed, we
25 should also keep in mind that the University of

4
WET2

5
PD4

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TRAN1
SEPA5

1 Washington, our very big neighbor down the street, is
2 doubling the size of their driving range. The Center
3 for Urban Horticulture is increasing in size, and they
4 are redoing Connivear Shell House to serve even more
5 people. This means more traffic north and south on Sand
6 Point Way.

7 I'm concerned that the draft EIS did not really
8 stand alone. It didn't consider the off-site
9 alternatives. The joint-use agreement with the schools
10 and park should be addressing more of all of the fields
11 and whether we need that many fields right here. Thank
12 you.

13
14
15 LANE GERBER

T45

16
17 My name is Lane Gerber, L-a-n-e, G-e-r-b-e-r, and
18 my address is 6500 50th Northeast, Seattle 98115. And I
19 would like to speak against the DEIS proposal.

20 First of all, the massive scale of the sports field
21 lighting is significantly different and above the number
22 of illuminated play fields at a typical Seattle site.
23 Eighty light poles from 65 to 85 feet high, with a total
24 of 640,000 watts of light for 11 fields, not including
25 tennis courts and so forth, that's at least three times

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TRAN1
SEPA5
(cont'd)

7
SEPA1

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SEPA3

1 the number of illuminated play fields that a typical
2 Seattle site now has.

3 Second point is that the impact of the lights on
4 people living on the hillside facing east towards the
5 lights will be massive. There was significant glare out
6 our living room windows from the three demonstration
7 light poles that were done a month or so ago. And if
8 there was that for the three demonstration poles, then
9 80 poles is just way over the top. We don't want to
10 sleep in a bedroom that's subjected to 640,000 watts of
11 light every night until eleven o'clock.

12 Third point is that the impact on traffic is very
13 significant, yet it seems to be played down in the DEIS
14 statement. While the DEIS statement says there will be
15 a major expansion of capacity and use levels, it also
16 says that it will not have any significant effect on
17 traffic congestion. That simply doesn't make sense to
18 me.

19 The fourth is that the DEIS says that noise from
20 the play fields will not be significant in residential
21 areas. But it seems like they make their estimates at
22 Sand Point Way and fail to make readings from the
23 hillside. As anyone who lives here knows, noise is
24 amplified up the hill. So the question is: How can we
25 sleep when games go on at 11 lit fields so late at

1
SEPA3
(cont'd)

2
L&G2

3
TRAN1

4
NOI1

1 night?

2 The fifth is the impact of lighting on wildlife --
3 on migratory birds and on feeding and breeding behavior
4 of animals. According to Dr. John Wingfield,
5 W-i-n-g-f-i-e-l-d, who chairs the Zoology Department at
6 the University of Washington, the effect will be very
7 significant. There are a number of articles in the
8 Audubon Society magazine that also talk about the impact
9 of lighting on migratory birds and on animals that live
10 in the area, and all of them are negative.

11 In addition, if the fields are altered such that a
12 lot of the animal life that now live there leave the
13 area, our concern is also with the rodents who are now
14 in the park. Will they be chased out into the
15 surrounding neighborhood residential areas?

16 Then I'm also puzzled about the City spending \$12
17 million and then asking for more donations to complete
18 this complex that the City estimates may take years of
19 noisy construction to build. One, we don't want to live
20 through the noisy construction, and two, it's puzzling
21 how there can be money for this when the City has a hard
22 time repairing our streets and highways.

23 The seventh point is that on January 10 of this
24 year, the Parks Department recommended severing
25 neighbors' concerns from the Joint Athletic Facilities

5
WDLF1

6
WDLF2

7
SEPA11

8
SEPA17

1 Development Program statement. This means that the
2 comments of the people who live in the neighborhood will
3 not be considered with the original statement, and I'm
4 concerned those neighborhood comments can be lost. I
5 think they should be included with the JAFDP statement.
6 And I think there needs to be a moratorium on
7 development, all development, until real consideration,
8 honest consideration, for the people and the
9 neighborhoods impacted by the play field proposal are
10 properly heard and registered.

11 One final one. It's eight, I guess. The DEIS
12 statement is nonspecific about many of the standards it
13 uses for measuring lighting, noise, congestion, and so
14 it makes it difficult to argue with them because it's
15 not clear what standards they're using. According to
16 people from the Engineering and Physics Departments here
17 at the University of Washington, accepted levels of
18 lighting for residential areas will be surpassed, at
19 least according to research that typically uses these
20 standards. But the DEIS says nothing about that.
21 Thanks for your consideration.

8
SEPA17
(cont'd)

9
L&G2

KATE LLOYD

T46

1
2
3 Good afternoon. My name is Kate Lloyd. I
4 represent the Laurelhurst Community Club and serve as
5 its liaison on Sand Point/Magnuson Park issues.

6 The Laurelhurst Community Club Board of Trustees
7 has reviewed the Sand Point-Magnuson Park Draft
8 Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Drainage,
9 Wetland/Habitat Complex and Sports Fields/Courts
10 Project. We have monitored activities at Sand
11 Point/Magnuson Park since the federal government's
12 transfer of the property to the City. We have
13 participated to the extent that the Parks Department has
14 provided information about park activities and proposed
15 development. We are here today to support our neighbors
16 in View Ridge and the position of the Northeast District
17 Council. Specifically, we offer the following
18 preliminary comments:

- 19
20 1. We oppose the field lighting proposed at Sand
21 Point/Magnuson Park until the Parks Department
22 adequately addresses the environmental impacts of
23 the proposal and considers a less intrusive
24 alternative than proposed in the DEIS. We do not
25 believe that it is fair to have almost 20 percent

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SEPA3

1 of Seattle's fields located at Sand Point/Magnuson
2 Park. Our position might be different had the
3 Parks Department developed a balanced plan that
4 considered the impacts on neighboring communities
5 and the environment. It is important that the
6 Parks Department work to restore and improve other
7 athletic fields throughout the City.

1
SEPA3
(cont'd)

8
9 2. Neighbors in View Ridge and the surrounding area
10 should not be forced to endure lighted fields until
11 11:00 p.m. each night. Aside from the obvious
12 aesthetic considerations, nighttime lighting has
13 health consequences. The DEIS has not adequately
14 addressed this issue nor the aesthetic impacts on
15 surrounding communities.

2
L&G2
AES1

16
17 3. A buffer should be provided between the athletic
18 fields and the wetland and habitat area. Neither
19 the preferred alternative nor the lesser-capacity
20 alternative address the impact of lighting on the
21 wetlands area. It is well established that
22 lighting affects the feeding and breeding behavior
23 of birds and migratory flight patterns. There will
24 also be other impacts on the wildlife and plant
25 life in this habitat area that must be examined and

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WDLF1

4
WET2

1 mitigated. The DEIS notes that there will be
2 displacement of up to ten acres of existing
3 habitat. The athletic fields/wetlands project
4 offers a unique opportunity to address the
5 competing needs. At a minimum, a buffer and
6 planted berm must be a part of the proposal.

4
WET2
(cont'd)

7
8 4. The DEIS fails to address traffic and
9 transportation issues and the cumulative impacts on
10 traffic. The DEIS notes that the addition of 15
11 sports fields will result in major expansion of
12 capacity and use levels, yet the DEIS notes minimal
13 traffic and parking impacts. This defies logic.
14 The DEIS also does not address the cumulative
15 impacts of other development within Sand Point-
16 Magnuson Park and in the area. This review should
17 be undertaken to ensure appropriate mitigation.

5
TRAN1

18
19 I have mentioned only a few issues associated with
20 the DEIS. Again, we support the position of the View
21 Ridge Community Council and the Northeast District
22 Council. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and
23 hope you will consider our views. We look forward to
24 submitting supplemental comments on the DEIS.

25

JOYCE TESHIMA

T47

1
2 My name is Joyce Teshima. I guess my biggest
3 concerns as a homeowner that overlooks this property
4 here is the number of lights that might come up toward
5 the house, and even in recent weeks we've experienced
6 the lights that have been on in the commissary, the old
7 commissary, which is on the south end of the property.
8 And I noticed that this morning when I woke up prior to
9 six o'clock in the morning that the light from that even
10 was very strong. And with the amount of lighting that's
11 projected with the soccer fields, there's going to be a
12 huge impact on our rest and our living conditions from
13 the lighting here.

14 I'm not disapproving that there not be any lights
15 at all. I think a minimum number of lights for a couple
16 of soccer fields would be fine, but the impact of -- the
17 number that are planned, or the maximum number that are
18 planned, I believe would be too much for our property.
19 As someone with windows that look over the park area,
20 I'm afraid of what it will do for our daily life, as
21 well as for the amount of rest we can have.

22 I'm also worried about the noise impact from the
23 activities. In the summertime, especially, there can be
24 a lot of noise down here, and with windows open, et
25 cetera, we notice much more in the summertime. And we

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L&G22
SEPA33
L&G24
NOI1

1 can even hear when they have a lot of matches down here,
2 sports matches, we hear the noise up here. So it's not
3 just the light, but it is also the noise impact.

4
NOI1
(cont'd)

6 JUSTINE BARTON

T48

7
8 My name is Justine Barton. Thank you for the
9 opportunity to comment on the DEIS and most specifically
10 on the lighting aspects of the project. I've been a
11 resident of View Ridge for over ten years and moved to
12 this location with the thought that the park was an
13 amenity that I valued and hoped it would be a very
14 positive part of our family's life here. I have
15 supported the efforts of the Parks Department to create
16 an urban natural space for the variety of activities
17 people in Seattle enjoy. My daughter plays soccer at
18 Sand Point, and my whole family enjoys accessing the
19 lake here.

20 Our home is on 58th Avenue Northeast, directly
21 across from and just barely higher up on the hill than
22 the park and the lighting demonstration that was held.
23 There's already increased lighting and noise in the park
24 due to housing, parking, and other uses, though, to
25 date, these have not been much of a bother to our

1 family, and we figure that it comes with increased use
2 of the park.

3 Regarding sports field lighting, I had heard
4 discussion that the latest technologies in lighting
5 would be selected to minimize glare, et cetera. Given
6 this background, my family and I were totally horrified
7 by the lighting demonstration. Our home is low enough
8 on the hill that even the box lights in the array
9 emitted glare into our dining room, living room, and
10 directly into our children's bedroom window. It was so
11 stunningly invasive that my husband and I were in total
12 shock. We couldn't imagine even those three lights
13 remaining where they were.

14 Therefore, as I read the DEIS, I'm confused by the
15 terminology and findings, "limited direct-glare exposure
16 to people in residential areas west of Sand Point Way."
17 That was certainly not our experience. "Despite lack of
18 direct-glare exposure, reflected light and/or
19 illuminated surfaces would be visible from some
20 locations on View Ridge to the west of the project
21 site." Virtually every location on the hill we visited
22 in our car that night that could see the lighting
23 demonstration was clearly affected.

24 I also don't understand the finding of
25 insignificant sky glow contribution. The sky is

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L&G2

2
L&G1

1 normally dark and serene over the area. With even the
2 three lights, it changed dramatically from our location.
3 Is the park to be considered a highly urbanized
4 environment and therefore a change from the existing
5 conditions of no concern? What would be the total
6 effect on our home environment, including other lighting
7 proposed for uses at the park that are not mentioned in
8 the DEIS?

9 In summary, the impact of the proposed lighting --
10 both the proposed and lesser capacity alternatives -- on
11 our view, and the very nature of our home and
12 neighborhood will be devastated. With one blow, the
13 park felt like an invasion rather than an amenity that
14 families like ours can live near and support. Please do
15 not light the fields at Sand Point/Magnuson. Thank you
16 for the opportunity to comment.

17
18
19 GWEN ARP

T49

20
21 My name is Gwen Arp, G-w-e-n, Arp, A-r-p. I would
22 like to go on record stating my opposition to the plan
23 to place high intensity lights on 11 sports fields at
24 Magnuson Park. I live in the immediate neighborhood,
25 and when the light demonstrations occurred in the fall,

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L&G1
(cont'd)

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S/O4

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S/O4

1 I felt like I had the headlights of a car facing into my
2 living room. And that was only a few number of the
3 lights that have been proposed.

4 I am also concerned with the hours that are
5 proposed for using the lights. I feel that the proposed
6 hours of lighting until 11:00 p.m. is too late. The
7 traffic and noise and light that late is inappropriate
8 for our neighborhood and will be a huge increase in
9 traffic and noise from the present level. Thank you.

10
11
12 KIM WELLS

T50

13
14 My name is Kim Wells, W-e-l-l-s, and I live at 6554
15 51st Avenue Northeast in the View Ridge neighborhood.
16 We use the park three to four days per week, and we
17 enjoy it immensely. We use it to walk, enjoy nature,
18 and we also use the dog park. And it seems that in the
19 four years that I've lived in the neighborhood, the
20 sports fields are currently under-utilized as they
21 stand, and that most of the year the only people who use
22 the park are walkers, people who are enjoying nature,
23 people who are walking their dogs. There is very, very
24 rarely much use of the sports fields in any seasons
25 except for the limited summer that Seattle enjoys.

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S/O4
(cont'd)

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SEPA3

1 We are strongly opposed to lighted sports fields.
2 There is also significant impact from the street lights
3 at the new UW housing complex that just finished. Also,
4 the noise is a significant concern. We can hear the
5 carolers from the Christmas ships very clearly. So all
6 games and activities at night would sound like they're
7 right next door, and that would seriously decrease the
8 quality of our life.

9 We support no action as the option; or, if an
10 environmental impact study supports better drainage for
11 wildlife, then simply add more walking trails to divert
12 pedestrian traffic from wildlife areas and then create
13 better drainage -- and also for the dog park, which is
14 not included in the DEIS information that I have read.
15 Thank you.

16
17
18 MARK LODGE

T51

19
20 My name is Mark Lodge, L-o-d-g-e. I'm a resident
21 of View Ridge at 7306 56th Avenue Northeast. I've been
22 a resident there for the past ten years. I'm here to
23 comment on my opposition to the conclusions of the DEIS
24 statement and comment on its nature in general.

25 I'd like to start specifically by getting one point

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S/O4

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S/O5

1 across is that the alternative, lesser-capacity
2 statements that were made in the plan on the
3 alternatives to either no lighting or full lighting
4 don't represent, in my opinion, a reasonable
5 alternative. The alternative plan still calls for the
6 inclusion of the full lights on the baseball fields,
7 which are a significant source of light glare into my
8 bedroom in the evening, which was evidenced in the test
9 lighting that was done. In fact, I believe it was
10 Councilman Nichols that came by and witnessed that
11 event.

12 In general, though, I would like to comment that I
13 felt that the EIS statement, as drafted by the Parks
14 Department, was a biased and weak interpretation of the
15 data that was presented, and that I would implore the
16 City Council to examine the quality of this EIS -- the
17 lack of the quality of it -- and the lack of scientific
18 judgment that is used in the writing of this EIS. There
19 are numerous points throughout the EIS where subjective
20 interpretation is made that either dismisses the impact
21 or doesn't represent it fairly in my opinion.

22 I would also say that as a citizen of Seattle and
23 a resident of the neighborhood and frequent user of the
24 park, I would also implore the City Council to think
25 about the legacy of this land and the contribution that

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SEPA2

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SEPA4

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S/O2

1 we could make to the future of Seattle by setting aside
2 as much green space as we possibly can that has low
3 environmental impact and will utilize this valuable
4 resource for all of Seattle. Thank you.

3
S/O2
(cont'd)

7 ALEXA THOMPSON

T52

8
9 My name is Alexa Thompson. Essentially, I have two
10 points I would like to make. As a member of the
11 neighborhood and an avid school supporter, I believe
12 that we should have parks and playing fields for
13 children to use. However, children shouldn't be playing
14 up till ten or eleven o'clock at night. It would be
15 adequate if they just developed the fields. Children
16 should probably be at home by nine o'clock, and
17 essentially, we can build the fields for them. Anything
18 beyond that, to me, appears to be for adult use, and it
19 seems criminal to me to take a beautiful park and ruin
20 the aesthetics by putting in synthetic turf.

1
S/O4

21 I can see already that there are going to be
22 injuries galore, and I have no doubt that there will be
23 suits left and right against the City. There have been
24 all these studies talking about synthetic surfaces and
25 how they're far more prone to injury. I see many

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SEPA6

1 lawsuits coming as a result of this. And it just seems
2 criminal to me to take a beautiful lakeside piece of
3 property and cover it with synthetic turf, and then to
4 light it up like an airport and ruin what should be a
5 premier park in the city. Thank you.

8 SHERYL WELCH

T53

10 Cheryl Welch, and I live on 58th Avenue Northeast.
11 I'm here in regard to my concern for the impact of the
12 lights. It says in the DEIS statement that virtually
13 all of the single family residential area west of Sand
14 Point Way is located west of the Burke Gilman Trail and
15 above elevation 125 feet and would have limited or no
16 exposure to direct glare from the sports field lights.

17 I'm here to testify that during the demonstration a
18 few months ago, we were having dinner in our dining
19 room, and it was like having car headlights shining into
20 the dining room. And I'm concerned because that was
21 only three poles. I can't imagine what it will be like
22 if there are the 80 proposed poles. And having this
23 light in our living area until eleven o'clock at night
24 is an extreme, I believe; and my concern is for our
25 neighborhood as well as the wetlands and wildlife that

3
S/O4

Duplicate
testimony.
Please
refer to
Comment
Record
T30.

1 are next to the ballpark -- or fields. Thank you.

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3
4 BODIL JONES

T54

5
6 My name is Bodil Jones. My home is just a block
7 above the Gilman Trail and across from Magnuson Park. I
8 have read the EIS and I believe that it is a terrible
9 thing that they are planning to do to the park. There
10 won't be any green places left. I highly disagree with
11 what they are planning to do, and I hope it won't
12 happen. Thank you.

13
14
15 BEN ARP

T55

16
17 My name is Benjamin Arp. I'm a longtime resident
18 of Seattle. I'm a recent resident of the immediate
19 neighborhood, and I have a home very near Magnuson Park,
20 and my family and I enjoy Magnuson greatly.

21 As a parent of several young children, I'm a big
22 proponent of sports fields. I have witnessed how the
23 sports fields available here at Magnuson Park are in
24 very poor condition and are not adequately built, and
25 dramatic measures and new sports fields are definitely

1 needed because they can't be used as they exist.

2 I think, though, given the plan that's been put
3 forward, that essentially the solution of one problem is
4 the creation of another problem. The demonstrations
5 that were conducted of the light test, I think, were
6 very revealing. Even though they weren't obviously
7 mimicking what would actually be done, the small numbers
8 showed great impact of the lighting, especially on my
9 neighborhood and for other people.

10 I think the diffusion of lighting has been
11 underplayed in the analysis that's being done. I think
12 that in wet weather the diffusion of light is
13 significant, so the diffusion is actually greatly
14 understated. Having lived near Dahl Field, which is
15 very old lighting technology but nonetheless has
16 extensive impact, that if you live in that area, you can
17 see how its impact is not just limited to the analysis
18 as it's been done for these fields.

19 I think what's also glaring is the fact that in the
20 current plan there isn't a consideration for limited
21 lighting. It's kind of an all or nothing, all these
22 fields. If lighting was even judged feasible, although
23 it would be more efficient to construct everything all
24 at once, there should be at least a pilot where the true
25 impact can be assessed on a real rational and measurable

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L&G1
L&G2

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SEPA3

1 basis and not by the projections given force so far.

2 So I oppose, certainly, this blanket mode. And
3 also, what's incredibly, I think, inconsiderate of the
4 planners has been the fact that they have such extensive
5 hours throughout the year that they plan to sort of
6 remove, essentially, the nighttime characteristic of
7 this neighborhood of Magnuson Park and of this region of
8 the shoreline.

9 I'd like to say in conclusion that I disagree
10 strongly with the conclusions as presented in the EIS.
11 I oppose strongly the impact this will bring. I think
12 it's been underestimated. And I think there are --
13 again, this is a solution that is flawed, and we need a
14 solution that addresses the needs of both the park users
15 and people who live here, day in and day out, throughout
16 the years. And there are my comments. Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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SEPA3
(cont'd)

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S/O4

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SEPA4

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SEPA3

1
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON)
3) ss.
4 COUNTY OF KING)

5 I, Catherine A. Decker, a Notary Public in and for the State
6 of Washington, do hereby certify:

7 That the foregoing testimony was taken before me at the time
8 and place therein set forth;

9 That the testimony was recorded stenographically by me, and
10 thereafter transcribed under my direction;

11 That the foregoing transcript is a true record of the
12 testimony given at the time, to the best of my ability.

13 I further certify that I am in no way related to any party
14 to this matter, nor do I have any interest in the matter.

15 Witness my hand and seal this 7th day of February, 2002.

16
17 

18 CATHERINE A. DECKER, Notary
19 Public in and for the State of
20 Washington, residing at Medina.
21 Commission expires June 29, 2005.
22 WA CSR No. DE-CK-EC-A502J5
23
24
25